

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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SENATE BILL 1222
House Committee Substitute Favorable 7/21/93

Short Title: Disab. Sports. Prog./Bear License.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

June 3, 1993

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A DISABLED SPORTSMAN PROGRAM UNDER
3 THE WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION AND TO ESTABLISH A
4 NONRESIDENT BEAR HUNTING LICENSE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 Section 1. Article 22 of Chapter 113 of the General Statutes is amended by
7 adding a new section to read:

8 **"§ 113-296. Disabled Sportsman Program.**

9 (a) The Disabled Sportsman Program is established, to be developed and
10 administered by the Wildlife Resources Commission. The Disabled Sportsman
11 Program shall consist of special hunting and fishing activities adapted to the needs of
12 persons with the disabilities described in subsection (b) of this section.

13 (b) In order to be eligible for participation in the Disabled Sportsman Program
14 established by this section, a person must be able to certify through competent medical
15 evidence one of the following disabilities:

16 (1) Amputation of one or more limbs;

17 (2) Paralysis of one or more limbs;

18 (3) Dysfunction of one or more limbs rendering the person unable to
19 perform the tasks of grasping and lifting with the hands and arms or
20 unable to walk without mechanical assistance, other than a cane;

21 (4) Disease, injury, or defect confining the person to a wheelchair,
22 walker, or crutches;

23 (5) Legal deafness; or

1 (6) Legal blindness, for purposes of participation in disabled fishing
2 only.

3 The disability must be permanent, and a person loses eligibility to participate in the
4 Disabled Sportsman Program when the specified disability ceases to exist.

5 (c) A person who qualifies under subsection (b) of this section may apply for
6 participation in the Disabled Sportsman Program by completing an application supplied
7 by the Wildlife Resources Commission and by supplying the medical evidence
8 necessary to confirm the person's disability. In order to participate in activities under
9 the Program, each disabled participant may be accompanied by an able-bodied
10 companion, who may also participate in the hunting, fishing, or other activity. The
11 Commission shall charge each disabled participant an annual fee of ten dollars (\$10.00)
12 to defray the cost of processing the application and administering the special activities
13 provided under the Program. The participant and the participant's companion shall also
14 obtain any applicable hunting, fishing, or other special license required for the activities.

15 (d) In developing the Disabled Sportsman Program, the Wildlife Resources
16 Commission shall:

17 (1) Establish special seasons and bag limits for hunting all or selected
18 species of wildlife;

19 (2) Authorize the manner for taking wildlife, consistent with State law;

20 (3) Permit the use of vehicles and other means of conveyance in areas
21 normally closed to such use;

22 (4) Set special fishing seasons and size and creel limits for inland fish;
23 and

24 (5) Alter any other established rules of the Wildlife Resources
25 Commission pertaining to hunting, fishing, or special activities, as
26 generally applicable or as applicable to game lands, for the purpose
27 of providing access to disabled persons participating in the Disabled
28 Sportsman Program.

29 The Wildlife Resources Commission may use its game lands for purposes of
30 conducting special activities for the Disabled Sportsman Program, and may enter into
31 agreements with other landholders for purposes of conducting special activities on
32 private lands.

33 (e) The Wildlife Resources Commission may establish special activities under
34 the Disabled Sportsman Program for any class or classes of disability described in
35 subsection (b) of this section. The Commission shall publicize these activities through
36 the public media and in the Commission's publications to ensure that disabled persons
37 are notified of the activities and informed about the application process.

38 (f) The Wildlife Resources Commission shall hold at least four special hunting
39 activities under the Disabled Sportsman Program per calendar year, at least two during
40 the season for taking deer with bow and arrow, and at least two during the season for
41 taking deer with guns. The Commission shall alternate the location of these special
42 activities so as to provide equal access to disabled persons in all regions of the State."

43 Sec. 2. G.S. 113-270.3(b) is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

1 "(1a) Nonresident Bear Hunting License – \$100.00. This license is valid
2 for use only by an individual within the State and must be procured
3 before taking any bear within the State. Notwithstanding any other
4 provision of law, a nonresident individual may not take any bear
5 within the State without procuring this license; provided, that those
6 persons who have a nonresident lifetime sportsman combination
7 license purchased prior to July 1, 1993, shall not have to purchase
8 this license."

9 Sec. 3. This act is effective upon ratification.