

HOUSE BILL NO. 129

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX

Introduced: 4/11/19

Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs, Resources

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to fees charged to physically disabled state residents for hunting and**
2 **fishing licenses and certain state park permits."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 16.05.340(a)(17) is amended to read:

5 (17) Waterfowl conservation tag 10

6 (A) A person may not engage in waterfowl hunting without
7 having the current year's waterfowl tag in the person's actual possession, unless
8 that person

9 (i) qualifies for a \$5 license fee under (6) of this
10 subsection;

11 (ii) is a resident under 18 years of age;

12 (iii) is 60 years of age or older and is a resident;

13 (iv) is [A DISABLED VETERAN] eligible for a free
14 license under AS 16.05.341.

(B) The Board of Game shall by regulation exempt the requirement of a waterfowl conservation tag for waterfowl hunting in areas of the state not likely to benefit from programs described in AS 16.05.130(b)(2) - (4).

* **Sec. 2.** AS 16.05.340(a)(23) is amended to read:

(23) Resident anadromous king salmon tag 10

A resident may not engage in sport fishing for anadromous king salmon without having the current year's anadromous king salmon tag in the resident's actual possession, unless that person

(A) qualifies for a 50 cent license fee under (1) of this subsection;

(B) is under 18 years of age;

(C) is 60 years of age or older and has been a resident of the state for at least one year;

(D) is [A DISABLED VETERAN] eligible for a free license under AS 16.05.341; or

(E) qualifies for a \$5 license fee under (6) of this subsection.

* **Sec. 3.** AS 16.05.341 is amended to read:

Sec. 16.05.341. Free license for certain disabled residents and disabled veterans and for active members of the Alaska National Guard and military reserves. A person may receive a resident hunting and sport fishing license under AS 16.05.340(a)(5) without charge if the person

(1) **is a person with physical disabilities;**

(2) has been discharged from military service under honorable conditions, is eligible for a loan under AS 18.56.101, and is certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as having incurred a 50 percent or greater disability during military service;

(3) [(2)] served in the Alaska Territorial Guard, is eligible for a loan under AS 18.56.101, and incurred a 50 percent or greater disability while serving in the Alaska Territorial Guard; or

(4) [(3)] is an active member of the

- (A) Alaska National Guard;
- (B) United States Army reserves;
- (C) United States Air Force reserves;
- (D) United States Navy reserves;
- (E) United States Marine Corps reserves; or
- (F) United States Coast Guard reserves.

* **Sec. 4.** AS 16.05.403(a) is amended to read:

(a) A resident hunting license, a resident sport fishing license, a resident subsistence fishing permit, or a resident personal use fishing permit indicating that the purchaser is blind may be obtained from the department upon payment of the fee, if any, required under [PRESCRIBED IN] AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430 and upon presentation of either an affidavit of the applicant stating that the applicant cannot distinguish light from darkness or an affidavit signed by a licensed physician or a licensed optometrist stating that the applicant's central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with correcting lenses or that the applicant's widest diameter of visual field subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees.

* **Sec. 5.** AS 16.05.403(b) is amended to read:

(b) A resident who is a person with physical disabilities may obtain from the department upon payment of the fee, if any, required under [PRESCRIBED IN] AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430 and upon submission of satisfactory proof of physical disabilities a resident hunting license, a resident sport fishing license, a resident subsistence fishing permit, or a resident personal use fishing permit indicating that the purchaser is a person with physical disabilities.

* **Sec. 6.** AS 16.05.797(c) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(3) "person with physical disabilities" means a person who presents to the department either written proof that the person receives at least 70 percent disability compensation from a government agency for a physical disability or an affidavit signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state stating that the person is at least 70 percent physically disabled.

* **Sec. 7.** AS 16.05.940(26) is amended to read:

(26) "person with physical disabilities" means a person who presents to

the department either written proof that the person receives at least 50 [70] percent disability compensation from a government agency for a physical disability or an affidavit signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state stating that the person is at least 50 [70] percent physically disabled;

* **Sec. 8.** AS 41.21.026(d) is amended to read:

(d) **Upon request, the** [THE] department shall issue [FREE OF CHARGE TO DISABLED VETERANS OF THIS COUNTRY] an annual state park developed campsite permit **at no charge to a disabled resident or disabled veteran**. The permit shall allow a disabled **resident or disabled** veteran to use a state park developed campsite for personal recreation use without a charge or fee under (a)(2) of this section. While utilizing a developed campsite [WITHOUT CHARGE] under this subsection, **a** [THE] disabled **resident or disabled** veteran shall comply with all other statutes or regulations pertaining to the use of the developed campsite. The department shall provide a form for use by a disabled **resident or disabled** veteran when applying for a permit under this section. Not later than February 1 of each year, the department shall prepare a report on the number of permits issued [TO DISABLED VETERANS] under this subsection during the previous calendar year and notify the legislature that the report is available.

* **Sec. 9.** AS 41.21.026(e) is amended to read:

(e) In this section,

(1) "developed campsite" means a campsite having access to the following public facilities:

(A) [(1)] restrooms;

(B) [(2)] a picnic table;

(C) [(3)] an outdoor cooking facility; and

(D) [(4)] an approved water source;

(2) "disabled resident" means a state resident who presents to the department either written proof that the person receives at least 50 percent disability compensation from a government agency for a physical disability or an affidavit signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state stating that the person is at least 50 percent physically disabled.