

Larry Hogan, Governor Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary Charles Glass, Deputy Secretary

January 23, 2020

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee 2 West Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan Vice Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee 2 West Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 25 – Hunting and Fishing Licenses – Active Military, Former Prisoners of War, Recipients of the Purple Heart Award, and Disabled Veterans

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources provides the following information regarding Senate Bill 25. This bill would repeal the sunset on allowing the department to issue complimentary or discounted hunting and fishing licenses to certain military personnel, former prisoners of war, recipients of the Purple Heart Award, and disabled veterans. The bill also repeals requirement that the Department of Natural Resources submit a certain report to the Governor and the General Assembly.

Though program participation is fairly modest, the department welcomes the opportunity to continue providing complimentary or discounted fishing and hunting licenses to certain military personnel, former prisoners of war, recipients of the Purple Heart Award, and disabled veterans. In 2019, we issued complimentary licenses to 48 recipients of the Purple Heart Award in addition to close to 500 licenses for disabled veterans and former prisoners of war.

Thank you for allowing the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to provide this information regarding Senate Bill 25.

Respectfully submitted,
James W. McKitrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Services