

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1074 (Delegate Kipke, *et al.*)  
Environment and Transportation Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Complimentary Hunting License for Former Prisoners of War or Disabled  
Veterans - Reciprocity

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This bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to issue a lifetime complimentary hunting license to an out-of-state person who is a former prisoner of war or a 100% service-connected disabled American veteran if the person's state of residence extends similar privileges to former prisoners of war or disabled veterans of this State.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Because it is estimated that only a limited number of hunters qualify for the complimentary lifetime hunting license established by the bill, State finances are not materially affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** DNR offers a complimentary lifetime hunting license to a *Maryland resident* who is certified as a former prisoner of war or a 100% service connected disabled American veteran. This lifetime license includes the bow stamp, muzzleloader stamp, and furbearer permit.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) ranks service-connected disabilities based on a scale from 10% to 100% (in increments of 10%). According to the VA website, this scale is used to determine disability compensation for injuries or diseases that were

incurred in or aggravated during active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training. A disability can apply to physical conditions, such as a chronic knee condition, as well as mental health conditions, such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

DNR administers a Wounded Warrior and Veteran Outreach Program to offer hiking, biking, boating, fishing, swimming, horseback riding, teambuilding ropes courses, hunting, and camping opportunities to wounded warriors, veterans, and their families.

In addition, DNR authorizes hunters with mobility impairments who obtain a Universal Disability Pass to hunt from vehicles (regardless of whether the hunter is a veteran). Applications for a Universal Disability Pass must be certified by a physician. A number of public hunting lands in the State are designated as lands where individuals can hunt from a vehicle with such a permit.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 10, 2015  
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