

# SENATE BILL 155

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By: **Senator Simonaire**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2019

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Recreational License Donation Program – Grants to Eligible Sponsor**  
3 **Organizations and Program Extension**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Recreational License Donation Fund to be used for  
5 grants to certain eligible sponsor organizations that provide recreational hunting or  
6 fishing opportunities for Gold Star recipients or certain disabled persons;  
7 authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to make grants to eligible sponsor  
8 organizations; specifying the purposes for which a grant awarded to an eligible  
9 sponsor organization may be used; defining a certain term; making conforming  
10 changes; extending the termination provision applicable to the Recreational License  
11 Donation Program; and generally relating to the Recreational License Donation  
12 Program in the Department of Natural Resources.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article – Natural Resources  
15 Section 1–405  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2018 Replacement Volume)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
19 Chapter 424 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2016  
20 Section 4

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
22 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article – Natural Resources**

24 1–405.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) (1) In this section[,] THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
2 INDICATED.

3 (2) “ELIGIBLE SPONSOR ORGANIZATION” MEANS A NONPROFIT  
4 CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDES RECREATIONAL HUNTING OR FISHING  
5 OPPORTUNITIES FOR GOLD STAR RECIPIENTS, DISABLED VETERANS, DISABLED  
6 MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES, OR PERMANENTLY  
7 DISABLED PERSONS WHO REQUIRE THE USE OF A WHEELCHAIR.

8 (3) “Gold Star recipient” means a recipient of the U.S. Department of  
9 Defense Gold Star for surviving spouses, parents, and next of kin of members of the armed  
10 forces of the United States who lost their lives in combat.

11 (b) A person may purchase and donate an angler’s license, a Chesapeake Bay and  
12 coastal sport fishing license, or a hunting license and any corresponding stamps for  
13 issuance in accordance with this section.

14 (c) (1) The Department may issue a donated license or stamp only for use by  
15 a Gold Star recipient, a disabled veteran, a disabled member of the armed forces of the  
16 United States, or a permanently disabled person who requires the use of a wheelchair.

17 (2) A recipient of a donated license or stamp shall be sponsored by [a  
18 nonprofit charitable organization that provides recreational hunting or fishing  
19 opportunities for Gold Star recipients, disabled veterans, disabled members of the armed  
20 forces of the United States, or permanently disabled persons who require the use of a  
21 wheelchair] AN ELIGIBLE SPONSOR ORGANIZATION.

22 (3) A recipient of a donated hunting license is subject to the hunting safety  
23 requirements under § 10–301.1 of this article.

24 (d) Only one eligible person may hunt under the authority of a donated license or  
25 stamp during one recreational license year.

26 (e) The Department:

27 (1) May not charge a fee for the issuance of a donated license or stamp; and

28 (2) May issue a donated license or stamp to an eligible resident or  
29 nonresident of the State.

30 (f) On or before October 1, 2017, and each year thereafter, the Department shall  
31 post on its website the names of the persons who donated recreational licenses or stamps  
32 in the previous recreational license years, unless a person who donates a license or stamp  
33 requests anonymity.

34 (g) (1) THE DEPARTMENT MAY USE FUNDS DONATED UNDER THIS

1 SECTION TO MAKE GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE SPONSOR ORGANIZATIONS.

2 (2) A GRANT AWARDED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE USED ONLY  
3 TO PAY CAPITAL, OPERATIONAL, OR PROGRAMMING COSTS INCURRED BY AN  
4 ELIGIBLE SPONSOR ORGANIZATION IN PROVIDING RECREATIONAL HUNTING AND  
5 FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GOLD STAR RECIPIENTS, DISABLED VETERANS,  
6 DISABLED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES, OR  
7 PERMANENTLY DISABLED PERSONS WHO REQUIRE THE USE OF A WHEELCHAIR.

8 (H) The Department shall adopt regulations to implement this section, including  
9 regulations establishing eligibility requirements for [donors]:

10 (1) DONORS, sponsors, and recipients of donated recreational licenses and  
11 stamps; AND

12 (2) APPLICANTS FOR GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE SPONSOR  
13 ORGANIZATIONS.

14 [(h)] (I) (1) In this subsection, "Fund" means the Recreational License  
15 Donation Fund.

16 (2) There is a Recreational License Donation Fund.

17 (3) The purpose of the Fund is to provide recreational hunting and fishing  
18 opportunities for Gold Star recipients, disabled veterans, disabled members of the armed  
19 forces of the United States, and permanently disabled persons who require the use of a  
20 wheelchair.

21 (4) The Secretary shall administer the Fund.

22 (5) (i) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to §  
23 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

24 (ii) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the  
25 Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

26 (6) The Fund consists of:

27 (i) Revenue collected by the Department for the purchase and  
28 donation of recreational hunting or fishing licenses or stamps under this section;

29 (ii) Money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund; and

30 (iii) Any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit  
31 of the Fund.

1 (7) The Fund may be used only for [donated]:

2 (I) **DONATED** recreational hunting or fishing licenses or stamps for  
3 use by Gold Star recipients, disabled veterans, disabled members of the armed forces of the  
4 United States, or permanently disabled persons who require the use of a wheelchair; **AND**

5 (II) **GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE SPONSOR ORGANIZATIONS, IN**  
6 **ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION.**

7 (8) (i) The State Treasurer shall invest the money of the Fund in the  
8 same manner as other State money may be invested.

9 (ii) Any interest earnings of the Fund shall be credited to the  
10 General Fund of the State.

11 (9) Expenditures from the Fund may be made only in accordance with the  
12 State budget.

13 (10) Money expended from the Fund for donated recreational licenses or  
14 stamps **AND GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE SPONSOR ORGANIZATIONS** is supplemental to and is  
15 not intended to take the place of funding that otherwise would be appropriated for  
16 [recreational licenses or stamps for use by] **PROVIDING RECREATIONAL HUNTING AND**  
17 **FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR** Gold Star recipients, disabled veterans, disabled members  
18 of the armed forces of the United States, or permanently disabled persons who require the  
19 use of a wheelchair.

20 **Chapter 424 of the Acts of 2016**

21 SECTION 4. **AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED**, That this Act shall take effect July  
22 1, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of [3] **6** years and, at the end of June 30,  
23 [2019] **2022**, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
24 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

25 SECTION 2. **AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED**, That this Act shall take effect July  
26 1, 2019. It shall remain effective until the taking effect of the termination provision in  
27 Section 4 of Chapter 424 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2016, as enacted by Section  
28 1 of this Act. If that termination provision takes effect, this Act, with no further action  
29 required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.