

# HOUSE BILL 221

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HB 755/21 – ENT

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CF 2lr1354

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By: **Delegate Thiam**

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2022

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund – No–Cost Licenses and**  
3 **Stamps**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing an eligible sponsor organization providing recreational  
5 opportunities with grant funding from the Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund to  
6 provide at no cost an angler’s license and trout stamps, a Chesapeake Bay and  
7 coastal sport fishing license, or a hunting license and any corresponding stamps to  
8 certain persons; and generally relating to the Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Natural Resources  
11 Section 1–405(a), (b), and (d)(3)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
15 Article – Natural Resources  
16 Section 1–405(d)(1) and (2) and 4–607  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Natural Resources**

22 1–405.

23 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

24 (2) “Eligible sponsor organization” means a nonprofit charitable

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 organization that provides any of the following opportunities for Gold Star recipients,  
 2 disabled veterans or other veterans who could benefit from one of the opportunities  
 3 provided, disabled members of the armed forces of the United States or other members of  
 4 the armed forces of the United States who could benefit from one of the opportunities  
 5 provided, or permanently disabled persons who require the use of a wheelchair:

6 (i) Recreational hunting or fishing, **INCLUDING PROVIDING AT NO**  
 7 **COST:**

8 1. **AN ANGLER'S LICENSE AND TROUT STAMPS;**

9 2. **A CHESAPEAKE BAY AND COASTAL SPORT FISHING**  
 10 **LICENSE; OR**

11 3. **A HUNTING LICENSE AND ANY CORRESPONDING**  
 12 **STAMPS;**

13 (ii) Recreational water activities;

14 (iii) Other recreational outdoor activities;

15 (iv) Therapeutic outdoor activities; or

16 (v) Workforce training for green jobs, including outdoor agricultural  
 17 jobs.

18 (3) "Gold Star recipient" means a recipient of the U.S. Department of  
 19 Defense Gold Star for surviving spouses, parents, and next of kin of members of the armed  
 20 forces of the United States who lost their lives in combat.

21 (b) (1) (i) Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the Chesapeake  
 22 Bay Trust may use the Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund established under subsection  
 23 (d) of this section to make grants to eligible sponsor organizations.

24 (ii) In awarding a grant to an eligible sponsor organization that  
 25 provides opportunities that the eligible sponsor organization believes benefit veterans or  
 26 members of the armed forces of the United States, the Chesapeake Bay Trust shall  
 27 determine whether the opportunities provided by the eligible sponsor organization will, in  
 28 fact, benefit veterans or members of the armed forces of the United States.

29 (2) A grant awarded under this subsection may be used only to pay capital,  
 30 operational, or programming costs incurred by an eligible sponsor organization in providing  
 31 any of the following opportunities:

32 (i) Recreational hunting or fishing, **INCLUDING PROVIDING AT NO**  
 33 **COST:**

- 1                                   **1. AN ANGLER’S LICENSE AND TROUT STAMPS;**
- 2                                   **2. A CHESAPEAKE BAY AND COASTAL SPORT FISHING**
- 3 **LICENSE; OR**
- 4                                   **3. A HUNTING LICENSE AND ANY CORRESPONDING**
- 5 **STAMPS;**

- 6                                   (ii) Recreational water activities;
- 7                                   (iii) Other recreational outdoor activities;
- 8                                   (iv) Therapeutic outdoor activities; or
- 9                                   (v) Workforce training for green jobs, including outdoor agricultural
- 10 jobs.

11                   (d)   (1)   In this subsection, “Fund” means the Healing Hunting and Fishing

12 Fund.

13                                   (2)   There is a Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund.

14                                   (3)   The purpose of the Fund is to provide any of the following opportunities

15 for Gold Star recipients, disabled veterans or other veterans who could benefit from one of

16 the opportunities, disabled members of the armed forces of the United States or other

17 members of the armed forces of the United States who could benefit from one of the

18 opportunities, and permanently disabled persons who require the use of a wheelchair:

- 19                                   (i)   Recreational hunting or fishing, **INCLUDING PROVIDING AT NO**
- 20 **COST:**

- 21                                   **1. AN ANGLER’S LICENSE AND TROUT STAMPS;**
- 22                                   **2. A CHESAPEAKE BAY AND COASTAL SPORT FISHING**
- 23 **LICENSE; OR**
- 24                                   **3. A HUNTING LICENSE AND ANY CORRESPONDING**
- 25 **STAMPS;**

- 26                                   (ii) Recreational water activities;
- 27                                   (iii) Other recreational outdoor activities;
- 28                                   (iv) Therapeutic outdoor activities; or

1 (v) Workforce training for green jobs, including outdoor agricultural  
2 jobs.

3 4–607.

4 (a) (1) The Department may issue annually a complimentary angler’s license  
5 to the President of the United States, the governor of any state, and any official of the game  
6 and fish department of any other state.

7 (2) The Department may issue a lifetime complimentary angler’s license to  
8 any Maryland resident who certifies that the resident is a former prisoner of war or 100%  
9 service connected disabled American veteran.

10 (3) The Department may issue a lifetime complimentary angler’s license to  
11 an out-of-state person who certifies that the person is a former prisoner of war or a 100%  
12 service connected disabled American veteran if the person’s state of residence extends  
13 similar privileges to former prisoners of war or 100% service connected disabled American  
14 veterans of this State.

15 (b) Not more than 20 complimentary angler’s licenses for each state other than  
16 Maryland shall be outstanding at any time.

17 (c) A complimentary angler’s license is not transferable and shall be issued  
18 without a fee.

19 (d) For the purposes of this section, “former prisoner of war” means a person who,  
20 while serving in the active military, naval, or air service of the United States, was forcibly  
21 detained or interned in the line of duty by an enemy government or its agents, or a hostile  
22 force, during a period of armed conflict.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
24 1, 2022.