

House Bill 786 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Knight of the 130th, Burns of the 159th, and Roberts of the 155th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to hunting, trapping, or fishing licenses, permits, and stamps generally, so as to add
3 a Type I nonresident infant lifetime sportsman's license; to clarify fees for replacement
4 licenses; to correct a cross-reference; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective
5 date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
9 hunting, trapping, or fishing licenses, permits, and stamps generally, is amended by revising
10 Code Section 27-2-3.1, relating to hunting licenses, sportsman's licenses, and lifetime
11 sportsman's licenses, as follows:

12 "27-2-3.1.

13 (a) Reserved.

14 (b) Reserved.

15 (c) The requirements in this title for procuring any license or permit for noncommercial
16 hunting and fishing privileges, except for hunting alligators, shall be satisfied by a resident
17 who procures a sportsman's license. An applicant for such license shall, prior to the
18 issuance of the license, complete a screening questionnaire associated with the federal
19 Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program.

20 (d) All licenses, stamps, or permits for noncommercial hunting and fishing privileges ~~must~~
21 shall be attached to or printed on a form provided by the department which ~~must~~ shall
22 include the applicant's name, address, date of birth, and hunter safety certification number;
23 provided, however, that each such item of information may be, but is not required to be,
24 printed on lifetime licenses.

25 (e)(1) The requirements in this title for procuring any license, stamp, or permit for
 26 noncommercial hunting and fishing privileges shall be satisfied by a resident or
 27 nonresident who procures a lifetime sportsman's license.

28 (2) An applicant for such license who is a resident shall, ~~prior to the issuance of the~~
 29 ~~license, certify and provide satisfactory evidence of residency~~ his or her residency as set
 30 forth in paragraph (5) of this subsection.

31 (3) An applicant for a veteran's lifetime sportsman's license shall, in addition to
 32 satisfactory evidence of residency, be required to provide satisfactory evidence that he
 33 or she served more than 90 days of federal active duty military service and was honorably
 34 discharged.

35 (4) An applicant for such license who is a nonresident shall not be eligible for issuance
 36 of such license unless ~~he~~:

37 (A) He or she is under 16 from two through 15 years of age and is the grandchild of a
 38 resident who holds a valid paid lifetime sportsman's license (not a Type S lifetime
 39 license). The resident grandparent who holds such a lifetime sportsman's license and
 40 who is the sponsor of a an eligible nonresident applicant for a lifetime sportsman's
 41 license ~~must~~ shall certify the nonresident applicant's relationship to him or her in
 42 writing to the department; or

43 (B) He or she is less than two years of age.

44 (5) For purposes of procuring a lifetime sportsman's license, the term 'residency' means
 45 a domicile within Georgia for a minimum of ~~12~~ three consecutive months immediately
 46 prior to procuring such license. Satisfactory evidence of residency shall consist of a
 47 current Georgia driver's license or official Georgia identification card issued by the
 48 Department of Driver Services; provided, however, that no license or identification card
 49 issued pursuant to Code Section 40-5-21.1 shall satisfy the requirements of this
 50 paragraph. and at least one of the following:

51 ~~(A) A voter registration card;~~

52 ~~(B) A copy of the prior year's Georgia income tax return;~~

53 ~~(C) A current Georgia automobile registration; or~~

54 ~~(D) A warranty deed to property at the same address as is displayed on the Georgia~~
 55 ~~driver's license.~~

56 Minors under 18 years of age shall be presumed to be residents upon proof of parent's
 57 ~~residency~~ resident status as provided for in this Code section. For purposes of procuring
 58 the Type I (Infant) and Type Y (Youth) lifetime license, a copy of a certified copy of the
 59 birth certificate of the licensee shall be required to show age (Types I and Y) and
 60 parentage (Type Y). A court order or other legal document establishing parental rights
 61 may be provided to show parentage.

62 (f)(1) Lifetime sportsman's licenses and fees for residents shall be as follows:

63 (A) Type I (Infant), available only to those individuals under two years of age:
64 \$200.00;

65 (B) Type Y (Youth), available only to those individuals from two through 15 years of
66 age: \$350.00;

67 (C) Type A (Adult), available to those individuals 16 years of age or older: \$500.00;

68 (D) Type SD (Senior Discount), available to those individuals 60 years of age or older:
69 \$95.00;

70 (E) Type S (Senior), available to those individuals 65 years of age or older: no charge;

71 (F) Type V (Veterans), available only to those individuals who served more than 90
72 days of federal active duty military service and were honorably discharged: 80 percent
73 of the amount of the fee specified for Type A lifetime sportsman's licenses in
74 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph; and

75 (G) Type SP (Shooting Preserve), available to any individual, resident or nonresident,
76 and which entitles the holder to hunt pen raised game birds and fish in any private or
77 state waters within the boundaries of a properly licensed shooting preserve: \$75.00.

78 (2) The fee for any lifetime sportsman's license for a nonresident, Type NR, shall be
79 twice the amount of the fee for a Type A (Adult) lifetime sportsman's license for a
80 resident, except that the fee for a nonresident Type I (Infant) license shall be the same fee
81 as for a resident Type I (Infant) license.

82 (g) Lifetime sportsman's licenses shall be valid for the lifetime of the purchaser, whether
83 resident or nonresident. Change of residency to another state shall not affect the validity
84 of the lifetime license when hunting or fishing in Georgia.

85 (h) The commissioner shall revoke the lifetime sportsman's license of any person who
86 knowingly attempts to or does purchase, obtain, or assist another person to obtain a lifetime
87 sportsman's license by fraudulent means, without refund of any fees paid.

88 (i) Upon payment of a replacement fee of up to \$10.00, any durable plastic card showing
89 a lifetime sportsman's license or other valid other than a Type S license may be replaced
90 if lost, stolen, or destroyed, provided that the applicant's name and lifetime license number
91 or other required license information are in the records of the department. ~~No replacement~~
92 ~~fee shall be charged for replacement of a Type S license. Replacement fees for all other~~
93 ~~licenses shall be \$3.00 per transaction, regardless of the number of licenses being replaced~~
94 ~~in a given transaction.~~

95 (j) Once a lifetime license is issued, no refunds of fees will be made except in the case of
96 the death before age 16 years of a Type I (Infant) lifetime license holder or a Type Y
97 (Youth) license holder, in which case a full refund of fees collected may be made upon

98 submission of the lifetime license and any other documentation required by the
99 department."

100 **SECTION 2.**

101 Said article is further amended in Code Section 27-2-30, relating to establishment of the
102 Wildlife Endowment Fund, by revising subsection (b) as follows:

103 "(b) In recognition of its obligations to lifetime sportsman's license purchasers, the General
104 Assembly directs the department to establish a fund known as the Wildlife Endowment
105 Fund for receipt of funds of an amount equal to that generated by the sale of lifetime
106 sportsman's licenses listed in subsection ~~(e)~~ (f) of Code Section 27-2-3.1. Further, the
107 General Assembly declares its intent to appropriate to the Wildlife Endowment Fund each
108 fiscal year an amount equal to that generated by the prior year's sales of lifetime licenses.
109 The fund is also authorized to accept contributions from private individuals and entities.
110 All funds appropriated and those contributed to the Wildlife Endowment Fund shall be
111 deemed expended and contractually obligated and shall not lapse to the general fund."

112 **SECTION 3.**

113 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2014.

114 **SECTION 4.**

115 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.