

# HOUSE BILL 715

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4r1496  
CF SB 533

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By: **Delegates Griffith, Adams, Allen, Anderton, Arikan, Baker, Bouchat, Buckel, Chisholm, Ciliberti, Fair, Ghrist, Grammer, Hartman, Hinebaugh, Hornberger, Howard, Hutchinson, Jacobs, D. Jones, Kipke, R. Long, Mangione, McComas, Miller, T. Morgan, Munoz, Nawrocki, Pippy, Reilly, Rogers, Rose, Schmidt, Stonko, Tomlinson, ~~and Valentine~~ Valentine, and Guyton**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 26, 2024

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Fishing and Hunting Licenses and Trout Stamps – Complimentary Licenses and**  
3 **Stamp Exemption – Veterans Determined to Be Unemployable**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to issue certain  
5 complimentary fishing and hunting licenses to certain veterans who the U.S.  
6 Department of Veterans Affairs determines are unemployable; exempting certain  
7 veterans who the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs determines are unemployable  
8 from the requirement to obtain a trout stamp; and generally relating to fishing and  
9 hunting licenses and trout stamps.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – Natural Resources  
12 Section 4–607, 4–614(a), 4–745(e), and 10–303(a)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
16 Article – Natural Resources  
17 Section 4–745(a)(1)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland

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### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



(2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

**Article – Natural Resources**

4–607.

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

(2) The Department may issue a lifetime complimentary angler’s license to any Maryland resident who certifies that the resident is [a]:

(I) A former prisoner of war;

(II) AN AMERICAN VETERAN WHO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DETERMINES IS UNEMPLOYABLE; or

(III) A 100% service connected disabled American veteran.

(3) The Department may issue a lifetime complimentary angler’s license to an out-of-state person [who]:

(I) WHO certifies that the person is [a]:

1. A former prisoner of war;

2. AN AMERICAN VETERAN WHO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DETERMINES IS UNEMPLOYABLE; or [a]

3. A 100% service connected disabled American veteran [if the person’s]; AND

(II) WHOSE state of residence extends similar privileges to [former prisoners of war or 100% service connected disabled American veterans of this State] ~~THE INDIVIDUALS SPECIFIED IN ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH~~ PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

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

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

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

5 4-614.

6 (a) (1) The Department shall adopt regulations to establish fishing areas  
7 where a trout stamp is required.

8 (2) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, a person may  
9 not fish or possess trout in an area established in paragraph (1) of this subsection unless  
10 the person first obtains a trout stamp in addition to an angler’s license.

11 (3) A trout stamp is not required of the following:

12 (i) A holder of a current resident consolidated senior sport fishing  
13 license issued under § 4-216 of this title;

14 (ii) A holder of a lifetime complimentary angler’s license [for 100%  
15 service connected disabled American veterans or former prisoners of war] issued under §  
16 4-607(a)(2) or (3) of this subtitle;

17 (iii) A person authorized by a disability exemption issued under §  
18 4-217 of this title;

19 (iv) Any resident serving in the armed forces of the United States  
20 while on leave in the State, during the resident’s leave period, if, while angling, the resident  
21 possesses a copy of the resident’s official leave order; or

22 (v) A person under 16 years of age.

23 (4) The stamp may be obtained from the Department or an authorized  
24 agent of the Department.

25 4-745.

26 (a) (1) Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d) of this section and § 4-217  
27 of this title, a person may not fish for finfish in the Chesapeake Bay or in its tributaries up  
28 to tidal boundaries or in State waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Atlantic coastal bays  
29 and their tributaries without first obtaining a Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing  
30 license or registration issued under subsection (d)(3) of this section and possessing the  
31 license or registration.

32 (e) (1) In this subsection, “former prisoner of war” means a person who, while  
33 serving in the active military, naval, or air service of the United States, was forcibly

1 detained or interned in the line of duty by an enemy government or its agents, or a hostile  
2 force, during a period of armed conflict.

3 (2) The Department may issue a lifetime complimentary Chesapeake Bay  
4 and coastal sport fishing license to any Maryland resident who certifies that the resident  
5 is [a]:

6 (I) A former prisoner of war;

7 (II) AN AMERICAN VETERAN WHO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
8 VETERANS AFFAIRS DETERMINES IS UNEMPLOYABLE; or [a]

9 (III) A 100% service connected disabled American veteran.

10 (3) The Department may issue a lifetime complimentary Chesapeake Bay  
11 and coastal sport fishing license to an out-of-state person [who]:

12 (I) WHO certifies that the person is [a]:

13 1. A former prisoner of war;

14 2. AN AMERICAN VETERAN WHO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT  
15 OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DETERMINES IS UNEMPLOYABLE; or [a]

16 3. A 100% service connected disabled American veteran [if  
17 the person's]; AND

18 (II) WHOSE state of residence extends similar privileges to [former  
19 prisoners of war or 100% service connected disabled American veterans of this State] **THE**  
20 **INDIVIDUALS SPECIFIED IN ~~ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH~~ PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**  
21 **SUBSECTION.**

22 (4) A complimentary Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license is  
23 not transferable.

24 (5) The Department may issue annually a complimentary Chesapeake Bay  
25 and coastal sport fishing license to the President of the United States, the governor of any  
26 state, and any official of the game and fish department of any other state.

27 (6) Not more than 20 complimentary Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport  
28 fishing licenses for each state other than Maryland shall be outstanding at any time.

29 10-303.

30 (a) (1) The Department annually may issue a complimentary hunting license  
31 to the President of the United States, the governor of any state, or an official or an

1 enforcement officer of the game and fish management agency of another state which  
2 reciprocally offers complimentary hunting licenses.

3 (2) (i) Subject to the requirements of § 10–301.1 of this subtitle, the  
4 Department may issue a lifetime complimentary hunting license to a Maryland resident  
5 who certifies that the resident is [a]:

6 1. A former prisoner of war;

7 2. **AN AMERICAN VETERAN WHO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT**  
8 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DETERMINES IS UNEMPLOYABLE;** or

9 3. A 100% service connected disabled American veteran.

10 (ii) Subject to the requirements of § 10–301.1 of this subtitle, the  
11 Department may issue a lifetime complimentary hunting license to an out-of-state person  
12 [who]:

13 1. **WHO** certifies that the person is [a]:

14 A. A former prisoner of war;

15 B. **AN AMERICAN VETERAN WHO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT**  
16 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DETERMINES IS UNEMPLOYABLE;** or [a]

17 C. A 100% service connected disabled American veteran [if  
18 the person's]; **AND**

19 2. **WHOSE** state of residence extends similar privileges to  
20 [former prisoners of war or 100% service connected disabled American veterans of this  
21 State] **THE INDIVIDUALS SPECIFIED IN ~~ITEM 1 OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH~~**  
22 **SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.**

23 (3) A complimentary license is not transferable.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
25 1, 2024.