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HOUSE BILL NO. 2094

Offered January 14, 1997

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 29.1-300.1 and 29.1-302.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the establishment of a junior lifetime hunting license.

Patrons—Weatherholtz, Cox, Kilgore, Landes, Parrish and Way; Senators: Hanger, Miller, K.G. and Potts

Referred to Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 29.1-300.1 and 29.1-302.1 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 29.1-300.1. Certification of competence in hunter education.

A. Except as provided in subsection B of this section, no hunting license shall be issued to (i) a person who has never obtained a license to hunt in any state or country, or (ii) a person who is under the age of sixteen, unless such a person presents to the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries or one of its authorized license vendors, a certificate of completion in hunter education issued or authorized by the Board under the hunter education program, or proof that he holds the equivalent certificate obtained from an authorized agency or association of another state or country.

B. Although a resident under the age of twelve is not required to obtain a license to hunt, any person under the age of twelve, *or an individual on his behalf* may purchase a Virginia hunting license, ~~except a special lifetime hunting and fishing license issued or a junior lifetime hunting license~~ pursuant to § 29.1-302.1, without completing a hunter education program as required in subsection A of this section, provided that no person under the age of twelve shall hunt unless accompanied and directly supervised by an adult who has, on his person, a valid Virginia hunting license. *The junior lifetime hunting license issued to an individual under the age of twelve shall become invalid on the individual's twelfth birthday and remain invalid until certification of competence in hunter education is shown as provided in this section. A lifetime license, indicating the completion of hunter education or an equivalent certificate, shall be re-issued at no cost when such proof is provided.*

The adult shall be responsible for such supervision. For the purposes of this section, "adult" means the parent or legal guardian of the person under age twelve, or such person over the age of eighteen designated by the parent or legal guardian.

"Accompanied and directly supervised" means that the adult is within sight of the person under the age of twelve.

C. This section shall not apply to persons while on horseback hunting foxes with hounds but without firearms.

§ 29.1-302.1. Special lifetime hunting and fishing licenses for residents and nonresidents.

A. Any resident or nonresident individual may apply for and receive from the Department, after payment of the appropriate fee, any of the following lifetime licenses which shall be valid for the life of the individual, nontransferable, and permit the person to engage in the licensed activity on any property in the Commonwealth according to restrictions and regulations of law:

1. A basic resident lifetime hunting license, to be obtained for a fee of \$250. This license is valid for the lifetime of the license holder even if the license holder becomes a nonresident of the Commonwealth subsequent to the purchase of the license.

2. A basic resident lifetime fishing license, to be obtained for a fee of \$250. This license is valid for the lifetime of the license holder even if the license holder becomes a nonresident of the Commonwealth subsequent to the purchase of the license.

3. A basic nonresident lifetime hunting license, to be obtained for a fee of \$500.

4. A basic nonresident lifetime fishing license, to be obtained for a fee of \$500.

5. *A junior resident lifetime hunting license that is valid until an individual's twelfth birthday, and which is transferable to a resident lifetime hunting license for no additional fee upon proof of completion of a hunter education course or equivalent, may be obtained for a fee of \$250.*

6. *A junior nonresident lifetime hunting license that is valid until an individual's twelfth birthday, and which is transferable to a nonresident lifetime hunting license for no additional fee upon proof of completion of a hunter education course or equivalent, may be obtained for a fee of \$500.*

Such basic lifetime hunting licenses shall serve in lieu of the state resident hunting license as provided for in subdivision 2 of § 29.1-303, or state nonresident hunting license as provided for in subdivision 3 of § 29.1-303. Such basic lifetime fishing licenses shall serve in lieu of the state resident

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60 fishing license as provided for in subdivision A 2 of § 29.1-310 or state nonresident fishing license as
61 provided for in subdivision A 3 of § 29.1-310.

62 B. Applications for all lifetime hunting and fishing licenses authorized by this section shall be made
63 to the Department. The form and issuance of such a license shall conform to the provisions of this
64 chapter for all licenses.

65 Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, all money credited to, held by, or to be received
66 by the Department from the sale of licenses authorized by this section shall be consolidated and placed
67 in the Lifetime Hunting and Fishing Endowment Fund established in § 29.1-101.1.

68 C. Any resident who is permanently disabled, as defined in § 58.1-3217, who applies for either of the
69 resident lifetime licenses authorized by this section shall receive such a license for a fee of five dollars.
70 The applicant shall provide proof of permanent disability acceptable to the Director of the Department of
71 Game and Inland Fisheries.

72 D. Any resident ~~sixty-five~~ *forty-five* years of age or older who applies for either of the resident
73 lifetime licenses authorized by this section shall receive such a license for a ~~fee of ten dollars~~ *one of the*
74 *following fees based on age: age forty-five through fifty, \$200; age fifty-one through fifty-five, \$150; age*
75 *fifty-six through sixty, \$100; age sixty-one through sixty-four, fifty dollars; and age sixty-five or older,*
76 *ten dollars.*