

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB789

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Enrolled

2. Patron: Ennis

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title: Special lifetime hunting and fishing license; military veterans.

5. Summary: Allows any resident of the Commonwealth who is a veteran of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard and Reserve who applies for the resident lifetime hunting license or the resident lifetime fishing license to receive such license. The cost for such license is set for one of the following fees based on age: age 50 or younger, \$200; age 51 through 55, \$150; age 56 through 60, \$100; age 61 through 64, \$50; and age 65 or older, \$10.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: The Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) anticipates an indeterminate nongeneral fund and federal revenue loss as a result of this bill. Any impact will depend on the number of eligible applicants; an estimate of which is not available. On average over the last five years, DWR has issued approximately 3,000 Lifetime Hunting and Fishing Licenses for constituents 65 and older.

Federal funding is available to DWR in proportion to the number of licenses the agency sells, resulting in a potential federal impact. The amount of federal support received by DWR is calculated based on agency license revenues. In order to report a hunter/angler as a certified license holder, the state fish and wildlife agency must receive a minimum net revenue (currently \$2.00) for said license. For each certified license holder that DWR reports, Virginia receives approximately \$36.00 (\$26 for every hunting license and \$10 for every fishing license) in federal support. Annual apportionments from this program, coupled with the sales of hunting and fishing license, represent more than three-fourths of DWR's operating budget each year.

In addition to these revenue sources, the department receives revenue generated from the Watercraft Sales and Use Tax as well as the sales tax on hunting, fishing, and wildlife equipment. Such revenue is transferred to the Game Protection Fund from the general fund.

Any impact a loss of nongeneral fund revenue tied to hunting and fishing license fees and the corresponding federal apportionments may have on agency services is indeterminate.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Wildlife Resources.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.