

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1065

H. P. 890

House of Representatives, March 13, 1975

Referred to the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Laffin of Westbrook.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

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**AN ACT to Authorize Free Hunting and Fishing Licenses for All Maine Residents of 65 Years of Age or Older and for Certain Totally Disabled Maine Veterans.**

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Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

**Sec. 1.** 12 MRSA § 2401-B, sub-§ 13, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 69, is further amended to read:

13. **Complimentary licenses to persons over 65 years of age.** A complimentary license to hunt or fish, or a combination hunting and fishing license shall be issued to any resident of Maine who is over ~~70~~ 65 years of age and applies therefor to the commissioner. Such application shall be accompanied by a birth certificate or other certified evidence of the applicant's date of birth and residency. Each such license shall remain valid for 3 calendar years from date of issue. Any such application for a license to hunt shall be accompanied by certified evidence that the applicant has eyesight of at least 20/60 vision, with or without correction, in one eye.

**Sec. 2.** 12 MRSA § 2401-B, sub-§ 15-A, is enacted to read:

15-A. **Totally disabled Maine veterans.** The commissioner or his agent shall provide a complimentary license to hunt or fish to any Maine resident who is a totally disabled veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States. An application under this subsection shall be accompanied by appropriate evidence that the applicant has received a general or honorable discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States and that the applicant is totally disabled from causes related to military service. Any application for a license to hunt shall be accompanied by certified evidence that the applicant has eyesight of at least 20/60 vision, with or without correction, in one eye. No per-

son shall be granted a license to hunt under this section who is disqualified from obtaining a hunting license under section 2401, subsection 5.

#### FISCAL NOTE

There are approximately 1700 persons of from 65 to 70 years of age who hold hunting or fishing licenses in this State. If combination hunting and fishing licenses, which normally cost \$10, were issued at no cost to those persons, a loss of revenue of \$17,000 each year could result.

There are at present approximately 680 veterans residing in this State who are totally disabled because of service-related conditions. If  $\frac{1}{4}$  of these veterans were granted combination hunting and fishing licenses at no cost, the loss of revenue to the State would be approximately \$1,650 each year.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

This Act would provide complimentary hunting and fishing licenses to all Maine residents who are 65 years of age or older. At present, complimentary licenses are provided to persons who are 70 years of age or older. However, most persons retire from their jobs at the age of 65 and suffer a sharp loss in income at that point. At the same time, their retirement often allows them to fully enjoy hunting and fishing without the limitations imposed by a job. The reasons for granting complimentary licenses at 70 years of age apply equally well to granting them at 65 and this Act will grant those complimentary licenses.

This Act will also provide complimentary hunting and fishing licenses to Maine veterans who are totally disabled because of service-related conditions. These veterans have honorably served their country and have suffered grave injury, with a consequent loss of income, because of their service. This Act will allow them the enjoyment of hunting and fishing without the cost of a license in recognition of their service to their country.