

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 275

H.P. 208

House of Representatives, January 31, 2017

An Act To Expand Disabled Veteran Eligibility for Complimentary Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Licenses

Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative KINNEY of Limington.
Cosponsored by Senator CHENETTE of York and
Representatives: ESPLING of New Gloucester, LYFORD of Eddington, MARTIN of Eagle
Lake, STEARNS of Guilford, WINSOR of Norway, WOOD of Greene, Senators: CYRWAY
of Kennebec, HAMPER of Oxford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10853, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 281, Pt. C, §3, is
3 further amended to read:

4 **4. Disabled veteran.** A resident disabled veteran ~~or~~ a nonresident disabled veteran
5 who is a resident of New Hampshire or Vermont or a disabled veteran who is a resident
6 of another state and who holds a valid hunting or fishing license in that state may obtain
7 upon application, at no cost, all hunting, trapping and fishing licenses, including permits,
8 stamps and other permission needed to hunt, trap and fish, and, upon meeting the
9 qualifications as established in section 12853, subsection 4, a guide license. A license
10 holder under this subsection who qualifies to hunt during the special season on deer under
11 section 11153 and who meets the eligibility requirements of section 11106 must be issued
12 one antlerless deer permit and one either-sex permit. The commissioner shall issue all
13 fishing, trapping and hunting licenses and permits requested under this subsection if the
14 commissioner determines the applicant ~~is a disabled veteran~~ meets the requirements of
15 this subsection and is not otherwise ineligible to hold that permit or license. For the
16 purposes of this subsection, "disabled veteran" means a person who:

17 ~~A. Is a resident as defined in section 10001, subsection 53 or is a resident of New~~
18 ~~Hampshire or Vermont;~~

19 ~~B. Is a veteran as defined in Title 37-B, section 505, subsection 2, paragraph A,~~
20 ~~subparagraph (3) Was honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United~~
21 ~~States or the National Guard; and~~

22 C. Has a service-connected disability evaluated at 50% or more.

23 Each application must be accompanied by satisfactory evidence that the applicant meets
24 the requirements of this subsection. An applicant for a license or permit under this
25 section is subject to the provisions of this Part, including, but not limited to, a lottery or
26 drawing system for issuing a particular license or permit. A permit or license issued
27 under this subsection remains valid for the life of the permit or license holder, as long as
28 the permit or license holder continues to satisfy the residency ~~requirement in section~~
29 ~~10001, subsection 53~~ or nonresident hunting or fishing license requirements and the
30 permit or license issued under this subsection is not revoked or suspended. For a resident
31 of New Hampshire or Vermont to be eligible under this subsection, that resident's state
32 must have a reciprocal agreement with this State.

33 **SUMMARY**

34 This bill expands eligibility for complimentary hunting, trapping and fishing licenses,
35 including permits, stamps and other permissions necessary to hunt, trap and fish in
36 Maine, to include nonresident disabled veterans who hold valid hunting or fishing
37 licenses in the states in which they are residents.