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**Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Committee**

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**HB 1748**

**Brief Description:** Concerning senior fishing licenses.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Walsh, Blake, Morrell and Hasegawa.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Lowers the qualifying age for senior rate fishing licenses from 70 years old to 65 years old.

**Hearing Date:** 2/10/09

**Staff:** Jason Callahan (786-7117)

**Background:**

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) issues fishing licenses to individuals that permit the recreational taking of fish. The WDFW offers a license for saltwater fishing, freshwater fishing, and a combination license that allows for both.

A saltwater fishing license costs \$18 for Washington residents, and the freshwater license costs \$20. State residents aged 70 or older are entitled to pay a reduced fee of \$5 for either license. A combination fishing license may be purchased for \$5 if a person is aged 65 or older and is an honorably discharged military veteran with a service-related disability.

**Summary of Bill:**

The required minimum age necessary to be eligible for a \$5 saltwater or freshwater fishing license is reduced from 70 years of age to 65.

**Appropriation:** None.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.