

HOUSE BILL REPORT

EHB 2292

As Passed House
February 10, 1994

Title: An act relating to hunting licenses.

Brief Description: Providing free hunting licenses to veterans who are confined to wheelchairs.

Sponsors: Representatives Conway, Basich, Kremen, Rayburn, Orr, Lisk, Dyer, Sheahan, King, Chappell, Johanson, Sheldon, Flemming, Jones, Eide, Schoesler, Campbell, Long, Roland, Chandler and Kessler.

Brief History:

Reported by House Committee on:

Fisheries & Wildlife, February 4, 1994, DPA;
Passed House, February 10, 1994, 93-0.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

Majority Report: Do pass as amended. Signed by 9 members: Representatives King, Chair; Orr, Vice Chair; Fuhrman, Ranking Minority Member; Sehlin, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Basich; Chappell; Foreman; Quall and Scott.

Staff: Keitlyn Watson (786-7310).

Background: Under RCW 77.32.230, the state Department of Wildlife issues a free hunting and game fishing license on request to any honorably discharged veteran, age 65 or older, with a service-connected disability as certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or by any branch of the armed forces of the United States, and with state residency of at least five years.

Disabled veterans under 65 do not qualify for free hunting licenses; neither do disabled veterans of any age whose disability is non-service-connected.

Summary of Bill: A free hunting license shall be issued on request to any honorably discharged veteran of any age who is confined to a wheelchair, and has resided in the state at least five years.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For Original Bill: Disabled veterans have small pensions. Free hunting licenses would help with their families' subsistence needs.

Testimony Against: None.

Witnesses: Representative Conway, prime sponsor (pro); Glenn Galbreath, P.V.A. Northwest (pro); and Lesley Brines, Department of Wildlife (neutral, with concerns: the VA does not certify non-service-connected disability).