

1 H.462

2 Introduced by Representative Potter of Clarendon

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Fish and game; hunting licenses; persons with a visual limitation

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to authorize the issuance of a hunting  
7 license to a person with a visual limitation. The bill would also provide that a  
8 person with a visual limitation who qualifies for a hunting license shall be  
9 eligible to receive a free combination hunting and fishing license.

10 An act relating to authorizing hunting licenses for persons with a visual  
11 limitation

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 4281 is added to read:

14 § 4281. HUNTING LICENSE FOR PERSON WITH A VISUAL

15 LIMITATION

16 (a) As used in this section:

17 (1) “Accompany,” “accompanied,” or “accompanying” means that the  
18 “person with a visual limitation” is within 15 feet of the licensed hunter  
19 required under subdivision (b)(1) of this section.

1           (2) “Person with a visual limitation” means a person who files proof  
2 with the commissioner that the person’s:

3           (A) central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye  
4 with the best visual correction; or

5           (B) widest diameter of visual field subtends an angle no greater than  
6 20 degrees.

7           (b) A resident or nonresident hunting license may be granted to a person  
8 with a visual limitation, provided that:

9           (1) The person with a visual limitation is accompanied by a person who  
10 is 18 years of age or older and who holds a valid hunting license that was  
11 issued under subsection 4254(b) of this title; and

12           (2) The person with a visual limitation meets all other requirements for a  
13 hunting license set forth under subsection 4254(b) of this title.

14           (c) The person who is required under subdivision (b)(1) of this section to  
15 accompany a person with a visual limitation may:

16           (1) Provide assistance to the person with a visual limitation. The  
17 assistance provided may include:

18           (A) selecting the game;

19           (B) sighting the firearm or bow;

20           (C) advising the person with the visual limitation when to use the  
21 firearm or bow; and

1           (D) tagging and retrieving game on behalf of the person with a visual  
2           limitation.

3           (2) Hunt game while accompanying the person with a visual limitation.

4           Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 4255(c) is amended to read:

5           (c) A permanent or free license may be secured on application to the  
6           department by a person qualifying as follows:

7           (1) For \$36.00, a Vermont resident 65 years of age or older may  
8           purchase one or all of the following licenses:

9           (A) A permanent fishing license.

10           (B) If the person qualifies for a hunting license, a combination  
11           fishing and hunting license which shall include all big game licenses.

12           (C) If the person qualifies for a trapping license, a trapping license.

13           (2) A legally blind person with a visual limitation, as that term is  
14           defined in section 4281 of this title, who is a Vermont resident may receive a  
15           free permanent fishing license ~~upon submittal of proper proof of blindness as~~  
16           ~~the commissioner shall require~~ or, if the person qualifies for a hunting license,  
17           a free combination hunting and fishing license. A ~~legally blind~~ person with a  
18           visual limitation who is a resident in a state which provides a reciprocal  
19           privilege for Vermont residents may receive a free one-year fishing license.

20           (3) A paraplegic person as defined in subdivision 4001(30) of this title  
21           who is a Vermont resident may receive a free permanent fishing license or, if

1 the person qualifies for a hunting license, a free combination hunting and  
2 fishing license. A paraplegic person who is a resident of a state which  
3 provides a reciprocal privilege for Vermont residents may receive a free  
4 one-year fishing license, or if the person qualifies for a hunting license, a free  
5 one-year combination fishing and hunting license.

6 (4) A Vermont resident who is a veteran of the armed forces of the  
7 United States and who is, or ever has been, ~~one hundred~~ 100 percent disabled  
8 as a result of a service-connected disability may receive a free combination  
9 hunting and fishing license which shall include all big game licenses upon  
10 presentation of a certificate issued by the veterans' administration so  
11 certifying. A resident of a state which provides a reciprocal privilege for  
12 Vermont veterans and who would qualify for a free license under this  
13 subdivision if the person were a Vermont resident, may receive a free one-year  
14 combination hunting and fishing license.

15 (5) A special olympian participating in a fishing tournament for special  
16 olympics may receive a free fishing license valid for that event.

17 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

18 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.