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1	S.32
2	Introduced by Senators Hardy, Beck, Heffernan, Watson and Williams
3	Referred to Committee on
4	Date:
5	Subject: Fish and wildlife; fishing; free license; persons with developmental
6	disabilities
7	Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to provide a free
8	permanent fishing license to Vermont residents who are persons with
9	developmental disabilities.
10 11	An act relating to providing a free fishing license to persons with developmental disabilities
12	It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:
13	Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 4255(c) is amended to read:
14	(c) A permanent or free license may be secured on application to the
15	Department by a person qualifying as follows:
16	* * *
17	(2) A person who is legally blind who is a Vermont resident may receive
18	a free permanent fishing license upon submittal of proper proof of blindness as

the Commissioner shall require. A person who is legally blind who is a

resident in a state that provides a reciprocal privilege for Vermont residents
may receive a free one-year fishing license.

- (3) A Vermont resident with paraplegia as defined in subdivision 4001(30) of this title or a permanent, severe, physical mobility disability certified by a physician may receive a free permanent fishing license or, if the person qualifies for a hunting license, a free combination hunting and fishing license. A person with paraplegia or a person certified by a physician to have permanent, severe, physical mobility disability who is a resident of a state that provides a reciprocal privilege for Vermont residents may receive a free one-year fishing license or, if the person qualifies for a hunting license, a free one-year combination fishing and hunting license.
- (4) A Vermont resident who is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces and who is, or ever has been, 60 percent disabled as a result of a service-connected disability may receive a free fishing, hunting, or combination hunting and fishing license that shall include all big game licenses, except for a moose license, upon presentation of a certificate issued by the veterans' administration so certifying. A resident of a state that provides a reciprocal privilege for Vermont veterans and who would qualify for a free license under this subdivision if the person were a Vermont resident may receive a free one-year fishing, hunting, or combination hunting and fishing license.

1	(5) A person participating in a fishing tournament for Special Olympics
2	may receive a free fishing license valid for that event.
3	* * *
4	(7) A certified citizen of a Native American Indian tribe that has been
5	recognized by the State pursuant to 1 V.S.A. chapter 23 may receive free of
6	charge one or all of the permanent fishing, hunting, or trapping licenses set
7	forth in subdivisions (1)(A)–(D) of this subsection if qualified for the license
8	and upon submission of a current and valid tribal identification card.
9	(8) A person with developmental disabilities who is a Vermont resident
10	may receive a free permanent fishing license upon submission to the
11	Commissioner of a statement signed by the person's physician certifying that
12	the person meets the definition of a person with development disabilities. "A
13	person with developmental disabilities" has the same meaning as in 18 V.S.A.
14	<u>§ 9302.</u>
15	Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE
16	This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.