

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

**Annual Report to the Vermont Legislature on
Accounting of Lost Revenue Due to the Issuance of Free Licenses**

10 V.S.A. § 4255(n)

Submitted to:
Vermont Legislature
House Committee on Appropriations,
House Committee on Ways and Means,
Senate Committee on Finance, and
Senate Committee on Appropriations

Submitted by:
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Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department
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Accounting of Lost Revenue Due to the Issuance of Free Licenses

Data for this report is collected through the Department's Point-of-Sale (POS) system for the calendar year 2025. The POS is where all hunting and fishing licenses are issued and license data is housed.

In 2025, the Department issued the following free licenses:

- § 4255(c)2 - A person who is legally blind who is a Vermont resident may receive 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
- § 4255(c)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.
- § 4255(c)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.
- § 4255(c)5 - A person participating in a fishing tournament for Special Olympics may receive a free fishing license valid for that event.
- § 4255(c)7 - A certified citizen of a Native American Indian tribe that has been recognized by the State pursuant to 1 V.S.A. chapter 23 may receive free of charge one or all of the permanent fishing, hunting, or trapping licenses set forth in subdivisions (1)(A)–(D) of this subsection if qualified for the license and upon submission of a current and valid tribal identification card.
- § 4255(e) - The Commissioner shall issue honorary hunting and fishing licenses to the President and Vice President of the United States. The Commissioner may, at his or her discretion, issue free licenses that are valid for one year or less
- § 4259 - Any resident of the State of Vermont who is serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or is performing or under orders to perform any homeland defense or State-side contingency operation, or both, for a period of 120 consecutive days or more shall certify that he or she is eligible under this section to obtain at no cost a hunting or fishing license or a combination hunting and fishing license. This provision will apply only during the period he or she is serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, or as certified pursuant to this section. A person who obtains a license under this section may keep the license until it expires, whether or not the person continues to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces until the expiration date.

License Type	Quantity	2025 license fee	Lost Revenue
RESIDENT - Permanent - Legally Blind - Fishing	6	28	\$ 168.00
RESIDENT - Permanent - Mobility Disability - Combo	26	47	\$ 1,222.00
RESIDENT - Permanent - Mobility Disability - Fishing	16	28	\$ 448.00
RESIDENT - Permanent - 60% Disabled Vet - Combo (+Muzzleloader Turkey)	54	93	\$ 5,022.00
RESIDENT - Permanent - 60% Disabled Vet - Combo (+Muzzleloader Turkey Archery)	71	116	\$ 8,236.00
RESIDENT - Permanent - 60% Disabled Vet - Combo (+Muzzleloader Turkey Trapping Archery)	7	139	\$ 973.00
RESIDENT - Permanent - 60% Disabled Vet - Fishing	22	28	\$ 616.00
RESIDENT - Tribal permanent combo (muzzleloader and turkey)	11	93	\$ 1,023.00
RESIDENT - Tribal permanent combo (muzzleloader, turkey, and archery)	11	116	\$ 1,276.00
RESIDENT - Tribal permanent fishing	8	28	\$ 224.00
RESIDENT - Military Personnel (active duty) - Combo - Fishing & Hunting	346	47	\$ 16,262.00
RESIDENT - Military Personnel (active duty) - Fishing	120	28	\$ 3,360.00
RESIDENT - Military Personnel (active duty) - Hunting	66	28	\$ 1,848.00
NON-RESIDENT - Mobility Disability - 1 Year Combo - Fishing & Hunting (If state of residency has reciprocity)	8	143	\$ 1,144.00
NON-RESIDENT - Mobility Disability - 1 Year Fishing (If state of residency has reciprocity)	3	54	\$ 162.00
NON-RESIDENT - 60% Disabled Vet - 1 Year Combo - Fishing & Hunting (If state of residency has reciprocity)	106	143	\$ 15,158.00
NON-RESIDENT - 60% Disabled Vet - 1 Year Fishing (If state of residency has reciprocity)	14	54	\$ 756.00
NON-RESIDENT - Tribal permanent combo (muzzleloader and turkey)	4	221	\$ 884.00
NON-RESIDENT - Tribal permanent combo (muzzleloader, turkey, and archery)	3	259	\$ 777.00
NON-RESIDENT - Tribal permanent fishing	2	54	\$ 108.00
Total	904		\$ 59,667.00