

House File 2026 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2026

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for the issuance of special hunting licenses
2 to certain nonresident disabled veterans.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 483A.24, Code Supplement 2011, is
2 amended by adding the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 10A. The commission shall issue a special
4 hunting license, wild turkey hunting license, or any sex deer
5 hunting license to a nonresident who has served in the armed
6 forces of the United States on active federal service and who
7 was disabled during that veteran's military service to enable
8 the disabled veteran to participate in a hunt that is conducted
9 by a nonprofit organization that conducts hunting experiences
10 in this state for disabled veterans. The licenses shall be
11 issued as follows:

12 a. The department shall prepare an application to be used by
13 a person requesting a special license under this subsection.

14 (1) The department shall verify that the license will
15 be used by the applicant in connection with a hunt conducted
16 by an approved nonprofit organization that conducts hunting
17 experiences in this state for disabled veterans. The
18 department shall specify, by rules adopted under chapter 17A,
19 what requirements a nonprofit organization must meet in order
20 to be approved to conduct hunts for disabled veterans who
21 obtain licenses under this subsection.

22 (2) The department of veterans affairs shall assist the
23 department in verifying the status or claims of applicants
24 under this subsection. As used in this subsection, "disabled"
25 means entitled to a service connected rating under 38 U.S.C.
26 ch. 11.

27 b. A license issued under this subsection shall be in
28 addition to the number of nonresident wild turkey hunting
29 licenses authorized pursuant to section 483A.7 and nonresident
30 deer hunting licenses authorized pursuant to section 483A.8.

31 c. A disabled veteran who receives a special license
32 under this subsection shall purchase a hunting license, and
33 a wild turkey hunting license or a deer hunting license, if
34 applicable, and pay the wildlife habitat fee, all for the same
35 fee that is charged to resident hunters. If hunting deer,

1 the disabled veteran shall also pay a one dollar fee that
2 shall be used and is appropriated for the purpose of deer herd
3 population management, including assisting with the cost of
4 processing deer donated to the help us stop hunger program
5 administered by the commission.

6 *d.* A disabled veteran who receives a special license
7 under this subsection is not required to complete the hunter
8 safety and ethics education course if the disabled veteran is
9 accompanied and aided during the hunt by a person who is a
10 representative of a nonprofit organization approved under this
11 subsection, is at least eighteen years of age, is qualified to
12 hunt, and has a hunting license.

13 *e.* The turkey hunting licenses issued under this subsection
14 are valid in all zones open to turkey hunting and shall be
15 available for issuance and use during any turkey hunting
16 season. The deer hunting licenses issued under this subsection
17 are valid in all zones open to deer hunting and shall be
18 available for issuance and use during any deer hunting season.

19 *f.* A license issued under this subsection is valid for use
20 only on a hunt conducted by a nonprofit organization approved
21 under this subsection.

22 *g.* The commission shall adopt rules under chapter 17A for
23 the administration of this subsection.

24 EXPLANATION

25 This bill requires the natural resource commission to issue
26 special hunting licenses, wild turkey hunting licenses, and any
27 sex deer hunting licenses to nonresident disabled veterans for
28 use on hunts conducted by nonprofit organizations that conduct
29 hunting experiences in the state for disabled veterans.

30 The commission is required to verify that an applicant for a
31 special license is entitled to a service-connected disability
32 rating and that the license will be used in connection with
33 a hunt conducted by an approved nonprofit organization
34 that conducts hunting experiences in the state for disabled
35 veterans. The commission shall adopt rules specifying the

1 requirements for a nonprofit organization to be approved to
2 hold such hunts.

3 The special wild turkey and deer hunting licenses issued
4 are in addition to the number of nonresident wild turkey
5 hunting licenses authorized pursuant to Code section 483A.7
6 and nonresident deer hunting licenses authorized pursuant to
7 Code section 483A.8. The special wild turkey and deer hunting
8 licenses are valid in all zones open to wild turkey and deer
9 hunting and during any season for wild turkey and deer hunting.

10 A nonresident disabled veteran receiving a special license
11 under the bill must purchase a hunting license, and a wild
12 turkey or deer hunting license, if applicable, and pay the
13 wildlife habitat fee and deer herd population management fee,
14 but only at the rate charged to a resident hunter.

15 A disabled veteran receiving a special license under the
16 bill is not required to complete the hunter safety and ethics
17 education course if the disabled veteran is accompanied and
18 aided during the hunt by a person representing an approved
19 nonprofit organization, who is at least 18 years of age, is
20 qualified to hunt, and has a hunting license.

21 The commission is required to adopt rules pursuant to Code
22 section 17A to administer the provisions of the bill.