

House File 2021 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2021
BY GEARHART

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to ginseng harvesting privileges for disabled
- 2 veterans.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **456A.39 Lifetime ginseng harvesting**
2 **permit for disabled veterans.**

3 1. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise
4 requires:

5 a. "*Disabled veteran*" means a veteran who has been honorably
6 discharged from active military service in the armed forces of
7 the United States and who has a service-connected disability
8 rating of zero percent or higher as certified by the United
9 States department of veterans affairs.

10 b. "*Harvest ginseng*" means the taking, possessing, and
11 selling of American ginseng pursuant to a program established by
12 the department under section 456A.24.

13 2. A resident of Iowa who is a disabled veteran may submit
14 an application the department for a lifetime ginseng harvesting
15 permit as provided in this section.

16 3. Upon application and payment of a one-time fee of seven
17 dollars and issuance of a lifetime ginseng harvesting permit by
18 the department, a disabled veteran shall be authorized to harvest
19 ginseng in accordance with applicable season restrictions,
20 quantity limits, and reporting requirements established by the
21 department. The permit shall be valid for the lifetime of the
22 permittee.

23 4. A lifetime ginseng harvesting permit issued under this
24 section shall be used in lieu of an annual ginseng harvesting
25 permit and shall be subject to the same rules and enforcement
26 provisions governing ginseng harvesting under this chapter and
27 chapter 481A.

28 5. The department shall prepare an application form and adopt
29 rules pursuant to chapter 17A as necessary to implement this
30 section. The department of veterans affairs shall assist the
31 department in verifying the status or claims of applicants under
32 this section.

33 6. Fees collected under this section shall be deposited in
34 the state fish and game protection fund established under section
35 456A.17.

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EXPLANATION

The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

This bill relates to lifetime ginseng harvesting permits for disabled veterans. The bill defines "disabled veteran" as a resident of Iowa who has been honorably discharged from active military service in the armed forces of the United States and who has a service-connected disability rating of 0 percent or higher. A disabled veteran may obtain a lifetime ginseng harvesting permit upon payment of a fee of \$7 to the department of natural resources (DNR). The permit shall authorize a disabled veteran to harvest ginseng in accordance with applicable season restrictions, quantity limits, and reporting requirements. DNR shall prepare an application to be used by a person requesting a lifetime ginseng harvesting permit under the bill. The department of veterans affairs shall assist DNR in verifying the status or claims of applicants.

The bill directs all fees collected to be deposited in the state fish and game protection fund.