

House File 21 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 21
BY COLLINS

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to fishing privileges of disabled veterans, and
2 making penalties applicable.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 483A.6A, subsection 2, Code 2025, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 2. A Except for a nonresident qualified under section
4 483A.24, subsection 16, paragraph "b", a nonresident fishing for
5 paddlefish on the Missouri or Big Sioux river is required to
6 have a fishing license that is valid in Iowa and, in addition,
7 purchase a nonresident paddlefish fishing license.

8 Sec. 2. Section 483A.24, subsection 16, Code 2025, is amended
9 to read as follows:

10 16. a. Upon payment of the fee established by rules adopted
11 pursuant to section 483A.1 for a ~~lifetime fishing license or~~
12 ~~lifetime hunting and fishing combined license~~, the department
13 shall issue a ~~lifetime fishing license or~~ lifetime hunting and
14 fishing combined license to a resident of Iowa who has served in
15 the armed forces of the United States on federal active duty and
16 who was disabled or was a prisoner of war during that veteran's
17 military service. The department shall prepare an application
18 to be used by a person requesting a ~~lifetime fishing license~~
19 ~~or~~ lifetime hunting and fishing combined license under this
20 subsection. The department of veterans affairs shall assist the
21 department in verifying the status or claims of applicants under
22 this subsection. As used in this subsection, "disabled" means
23 entitled to a service connected rating under 38 U.S.C. ch. 11.

24 b. A person, regardless of whether the person is a resident,
25 may fish without acquiring a fishing license if that person has
26 served in the armed forces of the United States on federal active
27 duty and was disabled during that veteran's military service, as
28 verified by the department of veterans affairs. While fishing
29 pursuant to this paragraph, the person shall, upon request of
30 a peace officer, display proof of the person's veteran status
31 and disability status in the same manner and subject to the same
32 procedures and penalties as provided by section 483A.19.

33 EXPLANATION

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

1 This bill relates to fishing privileges for disabled veterans.
2 Under current law, a resident who served in the armed forces of
3 the United States on federal active duty and who was disabled
4 during that veteran's military service is eligible to obtain a
5 lifetime fishing license or lifetime hunting and fishing combined
6 license.

7 Under the bill, any person, regardless of whether the person
8 is a resident, who is a disabled veteran may fish without
9 acquiring a fishing license if the person's disability occurred
10 during the veteran's military service. A person fishing in
11 such manner shall, upon request of a peace officer, display
12 proof of the person's veteran status and disability status. A
13 person who fails to provide the necessary documentation is guilty
14 of a simple misdemeanor punishable as a scheduled violation
15 with a fine of \$35. A person charged with failing to produce
16 the necessary documentation may avoid conviction if the person
17 produces in court, within a reasonable time, proof of the
18 person's veteran and disability status.

19 The bill also makes a conforming change to the Code section
20 concerning nonresident paddlefish fishing licenses and tags.