



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 101

February Session, 2018

Senate Bill No. 227

Senate, March 28, 2018

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist. and SEN. MARTIN of the 31st Dist., Chairpersons of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR DISCOUNTED FISHING LICENSES FOR CERTAIN VETERANS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 26-28 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2018*):

4 (d) (1) The fee charged for (A) any firearms hunting, archery
5 hunting, trapping or sport fishing license that is issued to any
6 Connecticut resident who is sixteen or seventeen years of age, or (B)
7 any sport fishing license that is issued to any Connecticut resident who
8 is a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, with a
9 service-connected disability rating by the United States Department of
10 Veterans Affairs amounting to ten per cent or more of total disability,
11 shall be equal to fifty per cent of the fee provided for such license in
12 subsection (a) of this section, rounded to the next highest dollar.

13 (2) The fee charged pursuant to section 26-27b, 26-48a, 26-86a or 26-
14 86c for (A) any firearms hunting, archery hunting, trapping or sport
15 fishing permit, tag or stamp that is issued to any Connecticut resident
16 who is less than eighteen years of age, or (B) any sport fishing permit,
17 tag or stamp that is issued to any Connecticut resident who is a
18 veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, with a service-
19 connected disability rating by the United States Department of
20 Veterans Affairs amounting to ten per cent or more of total disability,
21 shall be equal to fifty per cent of the fee provided for such permit, tag
22 or stamp in said sections, rounded to the next highest dollar.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2018	26-28(d)

VA *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 19 \$	FY 20 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Potential Revenue Loss	Up to 17,000	Up to 34,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill reduces, by 50%, the fees charged to veterans who have a certain disability rating for any sport fishing license, permit, tag, or stamp issued by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

It is anticipated that in FY 19, due to the timing of the bill and seasonality of some licenses, the revenue loss could be up to \$17,000.¹ In FY 20 and annually thereafter, the bill may result in a revenue loss of up to \$34,000, if every eligible veteran obtains a license at the reduced rate.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of veterans who obtain licenses at the reduced rate.

¹ There are an estimated 67,000 veterans eligible for reduced licenses under the bill's provisions, representing approximately 2% of the state's population. Correspondingly, this analysis assumes a 2% reduction in revenue generated from these licenses at a 50% fee reduction. In FY 17, there was \$3,386,817 generated from the 23 licenses impacted by the bill.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 227*****AN ACT PROVIDING FOR DISCOUNTED FISHING LICENSES FOR CERTAIN VETERANS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill reduces by 50%, rounded to the next highest dollar, the fees charged to a Connecticut veteran who has a Veterans Administration service-connected disability rating of 10% or more, for any sport fishing license, permit, tag, or stamp.

A “veteran” is anyone honorably discharged or released from active service in the U.S. Armed Forces or their reserve components, including the Connecticut National Guard performing duty under Title 32 of the U.S. Code (e.g., certain Homeland Security missions).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/14/2018)