

SENATE, No. 3662

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 27, 2023

Sponsored by:
Senator BOB SMITH
District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Expands eligibility for “fishing buddy license” fee.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning fishing licenses and amending P.L.1982, c.180
2 and R.S.23:3-4.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. Section 11 of P.L.1982, c.180 (C.23:3-1.1) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 11. a. The division shall issue a special license combining the
10 resident's firearm hunting license, the resident's bow and arrow
11 license and the resident's fishing license as provided under
12 R.S.23:3-4 into one license to be designated as the "All Around
13 Sportsman License."

14 b. The "All Around Sportsman License" shall authorize its
15 holder to hunt with a shotgun or bow and arrow and to angle or
16 attempt to take fish in the fresh waters of this State at the time, and
17 in the manner, provided by law and the State Fish and Game Code,
18 except that this license shall not authorize its holder to take trout
19 from the fresh waters of the State.

20 c. A resident of this State above the age of 16 years may
21 procure the "All Around Sportsman License" from the division at
22 Trenton or from its agents as designated by the division. It shall not
23 be valid unless it contains the signature of the owner written in ink.
24 Each license issued under this section shall expire on December 31
25 next following its issuance.

26 d. (1) The division shall determine the form of the "All
27 Around Sportsman License." The fee for this license shall be
28 \$71.25 and an issuance fee of \$1.00, or as adjusted by the Fish and
29 Game Council pursuant to section 12 of P.L.1982, c.180 (C.23:3-
30 1a).

31 (2) The fee for an "All Around Sportsman License" shall be
32 reduced by \$10 when application therefor is made at the same time
33 with: (1) another resident of this State who applies for a resident's
34 fishing license, is above 16 years of age and below 65 years of age,
35 and has not bought an "All Around Sportsman License" or resident's
36 fishing license **[after 2010]** in the previous five license years , or
37 (2) a nonresident who applies for a nonresident's annual fishing
38 license, is above 16 years of age, and has not bought a nonresident's
39 annual fishing license **[after 2010]** in the previous five license
40 years . The fee for a resident's fishing license bought in accordance
41 with the requirements of this paragraph shall be \$10.75 and an
42 issuance fee of \$1.00, and the fee for a nonresident's annual fishing
43 license bought in accordance with the requirements of this
44 paragraph shall be \$16.50 and an issuance fee of \$1.00.

45 e. The amounts remitted to the State Treasury from the
46 collection of any fee pursuant to this section shall be deposited to

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 the credit of the "hunters' and anglers' license fund."
2 (cf: P.L.2015, c.99, s.1)

3

4 2. R.S.23:3-4 is amended to read as follows:

5 23:3-4. The licenses issued under this article shall include,
6 among others authorized by law, the following:

7 a. A license issued to a person above 16 years of age, or in the
8 case of an apprentice firearm hunting license or an apprentice bow
9 and arrow license, a license issued to a person above 14 years of
10 age, who has an actual and bona fide domicile in this State at the
11 time of the application for the license and who has had an actual
12 and bona fide domicile in this State for at least six months
13 immediately prior thereto, provided that for a resident's trapping
14 license the person shall be above 12 years of age. These licenses
15 shall be designated as the resident's firearm hunting license, the
16 resident's bow and arrow license, the resident's trapping license, the
17 resident's fishing license, the resident's apprentice firearm hunting
18 license, and the resident's apprentice bow and arrow license.

19 (1) (a) The resident's firearm hunting license shall authorize its
20 holder to hunt with hounds and firearms only, and a fee of \$26.50
21 and an issuance fee of \$1.00 shall be charged therefor, except that a
22 person above the age of 65 years shall be charged a fee of \$14.50
23 and an issuance fee of \$1.00.

24 (b) The resident's apprentice firearm hunting license shall
25 authorize its holder to hunt only with hounds and firearms and only
26 when accompanied by a holder, above 21 years of age, of a regular
27 resident's or nonresident's firearm hunting license. A fee of \$26.50
28 and an issuance fee of \$1.00 shall be charged for a resident's
29 apprentice firearm hunting license, except that a person above the
30 age of 65 years shall be charged a fee of \$14.50 and an issuance fee
31 of \$1.00. The resident's apprentice firearm hunting license may be
32 issued to a person only twice during the lifetime of the person.

33 (2) (a) The resident's bow and arrow license shall authorize its
34 holder to hunt with bow and arrow only, and a fee of \$30.50 and an
35 issuance fee of \$1.00 shall be charged therefor, except that a person
36 above the age of 65 years shall be charged a fee of \$15.50 and an
37 issuance fee of \$1.00.

38 (b) The resident's apprentice bow and arrow license shall
39 authorize its holder to hunt only with bow and arrow and only when
40 accompanied by a holder, above 21 years of age, of a regular
41 resident's or nonresident's bow and arrow license. A fee of \$30.50
42 and an issuance fee of \$1.00 shall be charged for a resident's
43 apprentice bow and arrow license, except that a person above the
44 age of 65 years shall be charged a fee of \$15.50 and an issuance fee
45 of \$1.00. The resident's apprentice bow and arrow license may be
46 issued to a person only twice during the lifetime of the person.

47 (3) The resident's trapping license shall authorize its holder to
48 trap only, and a fee of \$31.50 and an issuance fee of \$1.00 shall be

1 charged therefor, except that a person above 12 years and under 16
2 years of age shall be charged no fee.

3 (4) The resident's fishing license shall authorize its holder to
4 fish only, and a fee of \$21.50 and an issuance fee of \$1.00 shall be
5 charged therefor, except (a) in any case where the applicant is
6 above 70 years of age and is otherwise qualified, no license shall be
7 required, (b) a person above 65 years and under 70 years of age
8 shall be charged a fee of \$11.50 and an issuance fee of \$1.00, and
9 (c) as otherwise provided in paragraph (5) of this subsection,
10 paragraph (2) of subsection c. of this section, or paragraph (2) of
11 subsection d. of section 11 of P.L.1982, c.180 (C.23:3-1.1).

12 (5) The resident's fishing buddy license shall authorize its
13 holder to fish only, and can only be obtained through application at
14 the same time with: (a) another resident of this State who applies
15 for a resident's fishing license, is above 16 years of age and below
16 65 years of age, and has not bought a resident's fishing license
17 **【after 2010】** in the previous five license years , or (b) a nonresident
18 who applies for a nonresident's annual fishing license, is above 16
19 years of age, and has not bought a nonresident's annual fishing
20 license **【after 2010】** in the previous five license years . The fee for
21 a resident's fishing buddy license and for a resident's fishing license
22 issued pursuant to this paragraph shall each be \$10.75 and an
23 issuance fee of \$1.00. The fee for a nonresident's annual fishing
24 license issued pursuant to this paragraph shall be \$16.50 and an
25 issuance fee of \$1.00.

26 (6) Any resident of this State who is totally blind, upon
27 application to the division, shall be entitled to a resident's fishing
28 license without fee or charge.

29 b. A license issued to a person above 16 years of age, or in the
30 case of an apprentice firearm hunting license or an apprentice bow
31 and arrow license, a license issued to a person above 14 years of
32 age, not entitled to a resident's license, authorizing the person to
33 trap or to hunt, as applicable, except that a nonresident's two-day
34 small game firearm hunting license shall not permit the taking,
35 hunting, or killing of deer or turkey. These licenses shall be
36 designated as the nonresident's firearm hunting license, the
37 nonresident's apprentice firearm hunting license, the nonresident's
38 bow and arrow license, the nonresident's apprentice bow and arrow
39 license, the nonresident's trapping license, and the nonresident's
40 two-day small game firearm hunting license.

41 A nonresident's apprentice firearm hunting license shall
42 authorize its holder to hunt only with hounds and firearms and only
43 when accompanied by a holder, above 21 years of age, of a regular
44 resident's or nonresident's firearm hunting license. A nonresident's
45 apprentice bow and arrow license shall authorize its holder to hunt
46 with bow and arrow only and only when accompanied by a holder,
47 above 21 years of age, of a regular resident's or nonresident's bow
48 and arrow license. The nonresident's apprentice firearm hunting

1 license and the nonresident's apprentice bow and arrow license may
2 each be issued to a person only twice during the lifetime of the
3 person.

4 (1) The fees for the nonresident's firearm hunting license, the
5 nonresident's apprentice firearm hunting license, the nonresident's
6 bow and arrow license, and the nonresident's apprentice bow and
7 arrow license shall each be \$134.50 and an issuance fee of \$1.00.

8 (2) The fee for the nonresident's trapping license shall be
9 \$199.50 and an issuance fee of \$1.00.

10 (3) The fee for a nonresident's two-day small game firearm
11 hunting license shall be \$35.50 and an issuance fee of \$1.00.

12 c. A license issued to a person above 16 years of age not
13 entitled to a resident's license, authorizing the person to fish only.
14 These licenses shall be designated as the nonresident's annual
15 fishing license, the nonresident's annual fishing buddy license, the
16 nonresident's two-day fishing license, valid for a period of two
17 consecutive days, and the nonresident's seven-day vacation fishing
18 license, valid for a period of seven consecutive days.

19 The nonresident's annual fishing buddy license can only be
20 obtained through application at the same time with: a resident of
21 this State who applies for a resident's fishing license, is above 16
22 years of age and below 65 years of age, and has not bought a
23 resident's fishing license **【after 2010】** in the previous five license
24 years ; or a nonresident who applies for a nonresident's annual
25 fishing license, is above 16 years of age, and has not bought a
26 nonresident's annual fishing license **【after 2010】** in the previous
27 five license years .

28 (1) The fee for the nonresident's annual fishing license shall be
29 \$33.00 and an issuance fee of \$1.00, except as otherwise provided
30 pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection, paragraph (5) of
31 subsection a. of this section, or paragraph (2) of subsection d. of
32 section 11 of P.L.1982, c.180 (C.23:3-1.1).

33 (2) The fee for a nonresident's annual fishing buddy license
34 shall be \$16.50 and an issuance fee of \$1.00. The fee for a
35 resident's fishing license obtained through application at the same
36 time with an application for a nonresident's annual fishing buddy
37 license in accordance with this subsection shall be \$10.75 and an
38 issuance fee of \$1.00, and the fee for a nonresident's annual fishing
39 license obtained through application at the same time with an
40 application for a nonresident's annual fishing buddy license in
41 accordance with this subsection shall be \$16.50 and an issuance fee
42 of \$1.00.

43 (3) The fee for the nonresident's two-day fishing license shall be
44 \$8.00 and an issuance fee of \$1.00.

45 (4) The fee for the nonresident's seven-day fishing license shall
46 be \$18.50 and an issuance fee of \$1.00.

47 d. Every license issued hereunder shall be void after December
48 31 next succeeding its issuance, except the one-day hunting license,

1 which shall expire on the date of issuance; the nonresident's seven-
2 day fishing license, which is valid only for seven consecutive days
3 after date of issuance; the nonresident's two-day fishing license,
4 which shall expire on the day after the date of issuance; and the
5 nonresident's two-day small game firearm hunting license, which
6 shall expire on the day after the date of issuance.

7 Any license issued hereunder to a person under 16 years of age
8 shall be void after December 31 of the year in which the licensee
9 becomes 16 years of age.

10 e. The fees for licenses set forth in this section may be adjusted
11 by the Fish and Game Council pursuant to section 12 of P.L.1982,
12 c.180 (C.23:3-1a).
13 (cf: P.L.2017, c.131, s.63)

14
15 3. This act shall take effect immediately.
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18 STATEMENT
19

20 This bill amends P.L.2015, c.99, which created a "Fishing Buddy
21 License," a reduced fishing license fee for both (1) the existing
22 angler (or "fishing buddy") who purchases a license together with a
23 new angler, and (2) the new angler who purchases a license together
24 with an existing angler. This license is intended to increase fishing
25 participation by rewarding existing anglers for introducing, or
26 reintroducing, people to fishing.

27 Under current law, the "fishing buddy" license is available to
28 persons who have not acquired a fishing license after 2010. This
29 bill would expand the scope of the reduced license fee to include
30 returning anglers as well as new anglers, by allowing the "fishing
31 buddy" license to be acquired by someone who has not acquired a
32 license in the previous five years, on a rolling basis.