

SUBJECT: Resident hunting and fishing licenses for certain military personnel

COMMITTEE: Culture, Recreation and Tourism — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — Guillen, Dukes, Aycock, Kuempel, Larson, Nevárez, Smith
0 nays

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Marida Favia del Core Borromeo, Exotic Wildlife Association)
Against — None
On — Gene McCarty, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

BACKGROUND: Parks and Wildlife Code, sec. 42.012 defines a qualified disabled veteran as veteran with a service-connected disability, as defined by the Veterans' Administration, consisting of the loss of the use of a lower extremity or of a disability rating of 60 percent or more and who is receiving compensation from the federal government for the disability.

DIGEST: HB 263 would require the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission to waive the fee for a combination resident hunting and fishing license for Texas residents who were qualified disabled veterans as defined by the Veterans Administration. The commission also would waive the fee for Texas residents who were active-duty service-members with valid military identification or were participating in the Texas Army National Guard, the Texas Air National Guard, or the Texas State Guard. The bill would stipulate that an identification card from the Texas Army National Guard, the Texas Air National Guard, or the Texas State Guard would be sufficient to establish state residency.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2013..

SUPPORTERS SAY: HB 263 would clarify for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department the eligibility requirements to waive fees for a combination resident hunting and fishing license for qualified, disabled Texas veterans as well as active-

duty service-members living in Texas and members of the Texas Army National Guard, the Texas Air National Guard, and the Texas State Guard.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No apparent opposition.