1	State of Arkansas As Engrossed: H3/0/23 H3/19/23
2	95th General Assembly A Bill
3	Regular Session, 2025 HOUSE BILL 1632
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5	By: Representative Wardlaw
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8	For An Act To Be Entitled
9	AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW REGARDING HUNTING AND FISHING
10	LICENSES; TO REQUIRE REIMBURSEMENT TO THE ARKANSAS
11	STATE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION FOR FREE OR DISCOUNTED
12	HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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15	Subtitle
16	TO REQUIRE REIMBURSEMENT TO THE ARKANSAS
17	STATE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION FOR FREE
18	OR DISCOUNTED HUNTING AND FISHING
19	LICENSES.
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21	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23	SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 15, Chapter 42, Subchapter 1, is
24	amended to add an additional section to read as follows:
25	15-42-131. Reimbursement for free or discounted licenses.
26	(a) The General Assembly finds that:
27	(1) Revenue from hunting and fishing licenses is a crucial
28	element for funding state fish and wildlife agencies' conservation efforts
29	across the nation;
30	(2) However, well-intentioned programs to offer free and
31	discounted licenses to certain qualified individuals and groups have the
32	potential to reap deteriorative effects on the agencies' budgets;
33	(3) To prevent the loss of sportsmen-generated dollars for
34	conservation funding, some states have enacted legislation to require
35	reimbursements to the state fish and wildlife agencies from the general funds
36	for any free and discounted licenses; and

1	(4) The state needs to take action to ensure the conservation
2	efforts of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission are protected.
3	(b)(1) The commission shall be reimbursed for lost revenue resulting
4	from the issuance of free or partially discounted annual resident combination
5	sportsman hunting and fishing licenses created by statute on or after the
6	effective date of this act in an amount equal to the discounts received.
7	(2) Subdivision (b)(1) of this section also shall apply to lost
8	revenue resulting from exemptions to licensure requirements created by
9	statute on or after the effective date of this act in an amount equal to the
10	amount of lost revenue from the exemptions.
11	(c) The commission shall:
12	(1) Maintain an accounting of lost revenue under subsection (b)
13	of this section; and
14	(2) Submit the accounting required under subdivision (c)(1) of
15	this section to the Department of Finance and Administration for the payment
16	of moneys in an amount equal to lost revenue out of the General Revenue
17	Allotment Reserve Fund on or before June 30 of each fiscal year.
18	(d) Within thirty (30) days of receipt of the accounting from the
19	commission, the department shall deposit the amount of lost revenue for the
20	previous fiscal year into the Game Protection Fund.
21	(e) The accounting required by subdivision (c)(1) of this section and
22	any other records relating to the accounting shall be subject to audit by
23	<u>Arkansas Legislative Audit.</u>
24	(f) Any reimbursement to the commission for lost revenue under
25	subdivision (b) of this section shall be made from the General Revenue
26	Allotment Reserve Fund subject to an appropriation by the General Assembly.
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28	/s/Wardlaw
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