

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1632

5 By: Representative Wardlaw
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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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Subtitle

15 TO REQUIRE REIMBURSEMENT TO THE ARKANSAS
16 STATE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION FOR FREE
17 OR DISCOUNTED HUNTING AND FISHING
18 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 Fund
17 Account 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 the
23 Treasurer of State.

24 (f) Any reimbursement to the commission for lost revenue under
25 subdivision (b) of this section shall be made from the General Revenue Fund
26 Account subject to an appropriation by the General Assembly.

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