

SUBJECT: Waiving hunting and fishing license fee for certain military personnel

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

VOTE: 4 ayes — Guillen, Larson, Murr, Smith

0 nays

3 absent — Dukes, Frullo, Márquez

WITNESSES: For — None

Against — None

On — Justin Halvorsen, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

BACKGROUND: Parks and Wildlife Code, sec. 50.002 sets the fee for the combination hunting and fishing license at \$12 for the annual license and \$500 for a lifetime license, or an amount set by the Parks and Wildlife Commission, whichever amount is more.

DIGEST: HB 118 would require the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission to waive the combination resident hunting and fishing license fee for a qualified disabled veteran or a resident who held a valid military identification card and was on active duty in the U.S. military, the Texas Army National Guard, the Texas Air National Guard, or the Texas State Guard.

A valid military identification card would be sufficient to establish Texas residency for the purpose of a license fee waiver. The fee waiver would not apply to retired military or dependents unless otherwise qualified.

The 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, 2015.