

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

LS 7297
BILL NUMBER: HB 1228

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 7, 2025
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Hunting Licenses for Disabled Veterans.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Dant Chesser
FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 X DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: The bill creates a new disabled veteran (DAV) hunting license bundle that includes a discounted yearly deer hunting license and turkey hunting license.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues: The bill could reduce revenue to the Fish and Wildlife Fund by an indeterminate amount. The bill creates a new DAV deer and turkey license bundle for \$80. The new license would bundle the following licenses: the deer license bundle (\$91), the spring turkey (\$32), and fall turkey (\$32) licenses. A DAV hunter who currently purchases the deer license bundle, or the deer license bundle with one or both turkey licenses could spend \$11 to \$75 less on the new bundle. Conversely, a DAV hunter who currently purchases only a single deer license and/or turkey license may choose to spend an additional \$9 to \$48 for the additional discounted hunting options.

About 10,800 individuals purchase a DAV license to fish, hunt (small game), or the hunt/fish combo. The number of these individuals who *also* purchase deer and/or turkey licenses is not known. Additionally, the number of DAV-eligible individuals who *only* purchase deer and/or turkey licenses and do not purchase DAV licenses (are not included in the 10,800) is not known.

Additional Information: Data from national hunting surveys show that overlap exists between individuals who engage in fishing, those who engage in hunting large game (which includes deer and wild turkey), and those who engage in hunting small game, migratory birds, and other animals. However, the data are not detailed enough to know what percentage of individuals who engage in one activity also engage in another.

The following table displays the number of each license type sold for the 2023 season to indicate total volumes, as well as the popularity of some activities compared to others. For the 10-year DAV licenses, sales for the 2014-2023 seasons are shown.

2023 Hunting Season: Current License Fees and Number of Licenses Sold				
Category	License Type	Fee	Number Sold	Category Total
Deer	Bundle	\$91	76,449	142,998 Deer Licenses
	Archery, Firearm, Muzzleloader, or Special Antlerless Season	\$39	66,549	
Turkey	Spring	\$32	25,887	29,664 Turkey Licenses
	Fall	\$32	3,777	
Hunt (small game)	Hunt	\$20	21,639	89,224 Hunting Licenses
	Hunt/Fish	\$32	67,585	
DAV Annual	Fish	\$2.75	261	10,780 DAV Licenses
	Hunt	\$2.75	45	
	Hunt/Fish	\$2.75	668	
DAV 10-year	Fish (2014-2023 fishing seasons)	\$27.50	1,134	
	Hunt (2014-2023 hunting seasons)	\$27.50	174	
	Hunt/Fish (2014-2023 hunting seasons)	\$27.50	8,498	
Numbers include apprentice licenses. Individual deer license numbers also include military/refuge and deer reduction zone.				

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Natural Resources; Natural Resources Commission.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Department of Natural Resources: 2023 License Year Sales;
<https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/licenses-and-permits/license-fees/>;
https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Final_2022-National-Survey_101223-accessible-single-page.pdf;
<https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/wildlife-resources/animals/white-tailed-deer/special-antlerless-firearms-season/>;
<https://hecshunting.com/blog/indiana-hunting-seasons/>.

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