

SENATE BILL No. 39

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 14-22-11-18.

Synopsis: Hunting season for qualified disabled veterans. Provides that catastrophically disabled veterans may hunt on the same free hunting days as those designated for youth hunters by the director of the department of natural resources. Defines "catastrophically disabled veteran".

Effective: July 1, 2024.

Niezgodski

January 8, 2024, read first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources.



Second Regular Session of the 123rd General Assembly (2024)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2023 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 39



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning natural and cultural resources.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 14-22-11-18, AS AMENDED BY THE
2 TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS BILL OF THE 2024 GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
4 JULY 1, 2024]: Sec. 18. **(a) As used in this section, "catastrophically
5 disabled veteran" has the meaning set forth in 38 CFR 17.36(e) as
6 in effect January 1, 2024.**
7 ~~(a)~~ **(b)** The director may designate not more than four (4) days each
8 year as free hunting days for youth hunters **and catastrophically
9 disabled veterans.**
10 ~~(b)~~ **(c)** During a free hunting day for youth hunters **and
11 catastrophically disabled veterans** designated under subsection ~~(a)~~,
12 **(b)**, a resident who is less than eighteen (18) years of age **or a resident
13 who is a catastrophically disabled veteran** may:
14 (1) hunt using hunting methods that are designated by the director
15 and that are legal for that hunting season; and
16 (2) exercise the same privileges that a resident is entitled to under
17 ~~IC 14-22-12-1(24)~~. **IC 14-22-12-1(a)(24) for a youth hunter or**



- 1 **IC 14-22-12-1(a) for a catastrophically disabled veteran.**
 2 A youth hunter **or a catastrophically disabled veteran** is not required
 3 to pay a fee or possess a hunting license.
 4 ~~(c)~~ **(d)** A youth hunter who hunts during a free hunting day ~~for youth~~
 5 ~~hunters~~ under this section must:
 6 (1) comply with the conditions and rules adopted by the director;
 7 and
 8 (2) be accompanied by an individual who:
 9 (A) is at least eighteen (18) years of age; and
 10 (B) holds a valid hunting license under IC 14-22-12 or is not
 11 required to have a hunting license under this chapter.
 12 ~~(d)~~ **(e)** The individual under subsection ~~(c)(2)~~ **(d)(2)** who
 13 accompanies the youth hunter:
 14 (1) must be in close enough proximity to monitor the youth
 15 hunter's activities and communicate with the youth hunter at all
 16 times; and
 17 (2) may assist the youth hunter, including calling, but may not
 18 carry a firearm or bow and arrow.
 19 **(f) A catastrophically disabled veteran who hunts during a free**
 20 **hunting day under this section must:**
 21 **(1) comply with the conditions and rules adopted by the**
 22 **director; and**
 23 **(2) be accompanied by an individual who is at least eighteen**
 24 **(18) years of age.**
 25 **(g) The individual under subsection (f)(2) who accompanies a**
 26 **catastrophically disabled veteran:**
 27 **(1) is not required to hold a valid hunting license under**
 28 **IC 14-22-12 or to have a hunting license under this chapter;**
 29 **(2) must be in close enough proximity to monitor the**
 30 **catastrophically disabled veteran's activities and**
 31 **communicate with the catastrophically disabled veteran at all**
 32 **times; and**
 33 **(3) may assist the catastrophically disabled veteran, including**
 34 **calling, but may not carry a firearm or bow and arrow.**

