

Chapter 693

(House Bill 689)

AN ACT concerning

Natural Resources – POWs and Disabled Veterans – Exception to Trout Stamp Requirement

FOR the purpose of creating an exception for certain holders of a lifetime complimentary angler's license who are former prisoners of war or service disabled veterans to the requirement to obtain a trout stamp before catching or possessing freshwater trout; and generally relating to exceptions to the requirement to obtain trout stamps.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Natural Resources
Section 4–607
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2005 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Natural Resources
Section 4–614
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2005 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Natural Resources

4–607.

(a) (1) The Department may issue annually a complimentary angler's license to the President of the United States, the governor of any state, and any official of the game and fish department of any other state.

(2) The Department may issue a lifetime complimentary angler's license to any Maryland resident who certifies that the resident is a former prisoner of war or 100% service connected disabled American veteran.

(b) Not more than 20 complimentary licenses for each state other than Maryland shall be outstanding at any time.

(c) A complimentary license is not transferable and shall be issued without a fee on forms the Department designates.

(d) For the purposes of this section, “former prisoner of war” means a person who, while serving in the active military, naval, or air service of the United States, was forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by an enemy government or its agents, or a hostile force, during a period of armed conflict.

4–614.

(a) (1) Except for a holder of a current resident consolidated senior sport fishing license issued under § 4–216 of this title, **A HOLDER OF A LIFETIME COMPLIMENTARY ANGLER’S LICENSE FOR SERVICE DISABLED VETERANS OR FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR ISSUED UNDER § 4–607(A)(2) OF THIS SUBTITLE**, and a person authorized by a disability exemption issued under § 4–217 of this title, a person 16 years old or older may not fish in any special catch–and–return trout management area and may not possess trout while fishing in nontidal waters unless the person first obtains a trout stamp in addition to an angler’s license. The stamp shall be obtained from any authorized agent of the Department at a cost of \$5. The Department may designate a person engaged in a retail business to sell the trout stamp as an agent under the Department’s control and supervision. The trout stamps may be furnished to agents upon consignment if the Department is given adequate security to insure ultimate payment to the Department for the stamps.

(2) The Department may sell expired stamps below face value to the general public for a period of 3 years, after which time the Department shall shred any unsold stamps. All revenues derived from the sale of these stamps shall revert back to the game management fund.

(b) Any resident serving in the armed forces of the United States, while on leave in the State, may fish without a trout stamp during his period of leave if he possesses a copy of his official leave order while fishing.

(c) A person is not required to have a trout stamp to possess trout taken from:

(1) Any privately owned lake or pond that is stocked with trout artificially propagated by commercial hatcheries or purchased from persons licensed to sell fish; or

(2) Any fee fishing lake or pond operated under § 4–11A–20 of this title.

(d) The Department or any authorized agent of the Department may issue a duplicate trout stamp for a fee not exceeding \$1 if a person indicates that the trout stamp is lost and is on record for previously purchasing a trout stamp.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2010.

Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2010.