

SENATE BILL 1716

By Hensley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 70,
relative to waterfowl hunting by military service
members.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-2-104, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(h)

(1) The fish and wildlife commission shall by proclamation designate two (2) veterans and active military personnel waterfowl seasons, consisting of one (1) day or longer per season, during which only veterans and active duty members of the United States armed forces, including members of the national guard and reserve who are on active duty other than for training, may participate and harvest coot, gallinule, moorhen, ducks, mergansers, and geese. During a veterans and active military personnel waterfowl season, non-veteran or non-active duty persons may be present; however, only veterans and active duty members of the United States armed forces may hunt.

(2) The wildlife resources director and the director's agents, through the county clerks or other legally designated license sales agents, shall issue any state permit or license that is required for a veteran or active military personnel to hunt waterfowl during seasons declared pursuant to subdivision (h)(1).

(3)

(A) The wildlife resources director and the director's agents, through the county clerks or other legally designated license sales

agents, shall accept the following documentation as proof that a person requesting a license or permit under subdivision (h)(2) is a veteran:

(i) The person's certificate of release or discharge, department of defense form 214 (DD 214), showing dates of service and that the person received an honorable discharge;

(ii) The person's department of defense form DD form 2 (Retired) identification;

(iii) The person's AGO Form 53-55 or NAVPERS 553 showing the dates of service;

(iv) The person's official NAVPERS-660 form, showing proof of honorable discharge; or

(v) A valid driver license issued to the person pursuant to § 55-50-354, which indicates that the person is a veteran.

(B) The wildlife resources director and the director's agents, through the county clerks or other legally designated license sales agents, shall accept a person's valid United States department of defense identification card as proof that the person requesting a license or permit under subdivision (h)(2) is active military personnel.

(4) For purposes of this subsection (h), "veteran" has the same meaning as defined in § 11-3-121(b).

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it.