

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: H3/6/25 H3/19/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1632

By: Representative Wardlaw

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW REGARDING HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES; TO REQUIRE REIMBURSEMENT TO THE ARKANSAS STATE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION FOR FREE OR DISCOUNTED HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE REIMBURSEMENT TO THE ARKANSAS STATE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION FOR FREE OR DISCOUNTED HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 15, Chapter 42, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

15-42-131. Reimbursement for free or discounted licenses.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Revenue from hunting and fishing licenses is a crucial element for funding state fish and wildlife agencies' conservation efforts across the nation;

(2) However, well-intentioned programs to offer free and discounted licenses to certain qualified individuals and groups have the potential to reap deteriorative effects on the agencies' budgets;

(3) To prevent the loss of sportsmen-generated dollars for conservation funding, some states have enacted legislation to require reimbursements to the state fish and wildlife agencies from the general funds for any free and discounted licenses; and



(4) The state needs to take action to ensure the conservation efforts of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission are protected.

(b)(1) The commission shall be reimbursed for lost revenue resulting from the issuance of free or partially discounted annual resident combination sportsman hunting and fishing licenses created by statute on or after the effective date of this act in an amount equal to the discounts received.

(2) Subdivision (b)(1) of this section also shall apply to lost revenue resulting from exemptions to licensure requirements created by statute on or after the effective date of this act in an amount equal to the amount of lost revenue from the exemptions.

(c) The commission shall:

(1) Maintain an accounting of lost revenue under subsection (b) of this section; and

(2) Submit the accounting required under subdivision (c)(1) of this section to the Department of Finance and Administration for the payment of moneys in an amount equal to lost revenue out of the *General Revenue Allotment Reserve Fund* on or before June 30 of each fiscal year.

(d) Within thirty (30) days of receipt of the accounting from the commission, the department shall deposit the amount of lost revenue for the previous fiscal year into the Game Protection Fund.

(e) The accounting required by subdivision (c)(1) of this section and any other records relating to the accounting shall be subject to audit by *Arkansas Legislative Audit*.

(f) Any reimbursement to the commission for lost revenue under subdivision (b) of this section shall be made from the *General Revenue Allotment Reserve Fund* subject to an appropriation by the General Assembly.

/s/Wardlaw