



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2005
Committee Statement
LB 162

Hearing Date: January 20, 2005
Committee On: Natural Resources

Introducer(s): (Stuhr, Schrock)
Title: Change Game Law provisions relating to permits, stamps, and fees

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

- Advanced to General File
 - X Advanced to General File with Amendments
 - Indefinitely Postponed
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Vote Results:

7	Yes	Senators Hudkins, Kopplin, Kremer, Louden, McDonald, Schrock, Stuhr
0	No	
0	Present, not voting	
1	Absent	Senator Smith

Proponents:
Senator Elaine Stuhr
Mark Brohman
Wes Sheets

Representing:
Introducer
Game and Parks Commission
Nebraska Division of Izaak Walton League

Opponents:
None

Representing:

Neutral:
None

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 162 does the following:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Section 2 | Eliminates the expiration exemption for residents over the age of 69. These permits are now an annual permit costing \$5.00. |
| Section 3 | Adds a new one-day fishing permit. Current law provides for three-day and annual permits. |
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Adds a new two-day nonresident hunting permit between the fourth Wednesday of November and the end of December; only one such permit per person per year is allowed.

Establishes a fee for the one-day permit between \$5.00 and \$8.00.

Establishes a fee for the two-day permit between \$25.00 and \$35.00 plus the cost of the habitat stamp, which is currently \$13.00.

Establishes a fee for a nonresident one-day permit between \$6.00 and \$9.00.

Section 4 Establish a Nebraska migratory waterfowl stamp.

Section 5 Lowers the low end of the fee range for existing resident lifetime permits to \$125.00. The low end currently is \$260.00. Requires that a lifetime aquatic habitat stamp be purchased with a lifetime fishing and combination permit. Clarifies that a resident lifetime permit is valid even if the resident moves out of state.

Creates nonresident lifetime fishing, hunting and combination permits. The fee for a nonresident lifetime hunting permit shall be between \$625.00 and \$1,250.00; the fee for lifetime fishing shall be between \$450.00 and \$850.00 plus the cost of a lifetime aquatic stamp; the fee for combination shall be between \$975.00 and \$2,000.00 plus the cost of the lifetime aquatic stamp.

Clarifies the replacement of resident and nonresident lifetime permits.

Grants the Game and Parks Commission authority to cease offering these permits and to establish a sliding scale fee price on lifetime permits based on the age of the applicant.

Section 6 Requires an aquatic habitat stamp and Nebraska migratory waterfowl stamp for lifetime permit purchasers.

Section 7 Broadens the definition of a disabled veteran to include general, under honorable conditions, discharge personnel. Establishes that existing permits are grandfathered.

Section 8 Establishes a \$5.00 veteran's permit that begins at age 64. A resident over the age of 69 (instead of 70) would be allowed a permit for a fee of \$5.00. Existing permits are grandfathered.

Section 9

- (1) Requires all licensed anglers to possess an aquatic habitat stamp, issued with fishing permits; requires Nebraska residents over the age of 16 and all nonresident migratory waterfowl hunters to possess a Nebraska migratory waterfowl stamp.
- (2) Allows the Commission to issue a lifetime habitat stamp to nonresidents. The price is the same as residents.
- (3) Establishes a lifetime aquatic habitat stamp with a range of \$75.00 to \$125.00, and allows duplicates to be issued.
- (4) Grandfathers a person who purchased their lifetime fish or lifetime combination hunting and fishing permits before January 1, 2006, so that they are not required to buy an aquatic habitat stamp.

(5) The aquatic habitat stamp will be printed on the permits. The aquatic habitat stamp will cost between \$5.00 and \$7.50 for the annual, three-day or combination hunting and fishing permits; between \$75.00 and \$100.00 for a lifetime permit; and \$1.00 from the daily fishing permit goes to the Nebraska Aquatic Habitat Fund. The Nebraska migratory waterfowl stamp will cost between \$5.00 and \$10.00.

- Section 10 Establishes that the Nebraska migratory waterfowl stamp is non-transferable and that the lifetime aquatic habitat stamp does not expire on December 31.
- Section 11 Adds migratory waterfowl to the list of species requiring a permit and appropriate stamp.
- Section 12 Adds the Nebraska migratory waterfowl stamp to the aquatic and habitat stamp issuance provisions.
- Section 13 Requires that the Nebraska migratory waterfowl stamp fees be placed in the Nebraska Habitat Fund; requires \$1.00 of the one-day fishing permit cost and the lifetime aquatic permit fees be placed in the Nebraska Aquatic Habitat Fund; and adds the Nebraska migratory waterfowl stamp to the list of stamps for which officials are liable.
- Section 14 All money received from the sale of Nebraska migratory waterfowl stamps shall be used for the acquisition on a willing-seller willing-buyer basis only, leasing, development, management or enhancement of and taking of easements on migratory waterfowl habitat, and can be used for the matching of federal funds.
- Section 15 Provides for an increase in the daily park entry fee from \$3.00 per day, to \$3.50 in 2006 and \$4.00 in 2007.
- Section 16 Establish the cost of the statewide buck-only permit at two and one-half times the amount of the regular deer permit.
- Section 17 Clarifies that one-in-a-lifetime limit on elk permits applies only to antlered elk.
- Section 18 Allows persons under the age of 12 to hunt wild turkey.
- Section 19 Allows the Commission to issue auction or lottery permits for deer, antelope, elk and wild turkey, but no more than five percent of the available permits.
- Section 20 Requires a person under the age of 12 hunting wild turkey to be accompanied by a person 21 years of age or older.

Section 21 Allows a disabled person with a special permit to hunt and fish from a vehicle.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

The Committee amendment clarifies that permits that have been issued to veterans who have been rated as fifty percent or more disabled or have reached the age of 65 and obtained a free permit prior to the adoption of this bill will not expire nor will the permit expire that a person 70 years old has obtained prior to the act.

It also requires that a person between the ages of 12 and 15 years of age that is hunting deer, antelope, elk or mountain sheep be accompanied by a person who in addition to being at least 21 years old, must also have a valid hunting permit. This requirement is also placed on individuals who are accompanying a person 12 years old or younger who is hunting wild turkey.

The amendment raises the permit fee for a non-resident to hunt wild turkey from between \$65.00 and \$75.00 to between \$85.00 and \$95.00.

Senator Ed Schrock, Chairperson