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## DIGEST

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HB 718 Engrossed

2022 Regular Session

Charles Owen

**Abstract:** Adds Purple Heart recipients and former military service members who either enlisted or were discharged while residing in Louisiana to those who may apply for annual hunting and fishing licenses at the resident rate and provides a set fee for the Senior/Retired Military combination hunting and fishing license.

Present law, effective until June 1, 2022, provides certain categories of nonresidents that may qualify for resident license rates, which includes Purple Heart recipients. (R.S. 56:643)

Present law, effective June 1, 2022, also provides certain categories of nonresidents that may qualify for resident license rates, but omits Purple Heart recipients. (R.S. 56:3000(F) as enacted by Act 356 of the 2021 Regular Session)

Proposed law restores resident rate eligibility for Purple Heart recipients. Proposed law further provides that former service members who enlisted or were discharged while residing in the state will also be eligible for resident rates. Specifies that an applicant under either provision of proposed law is required to prove their eligibility and provide the dept. with identification. Further specifies that under proposed law, a DD-214 or NGB-22 is one type of documentation that the department will accept as satisfactory proof of the appropriate military service.

Present law, effective June 1, 2022, provides a schedule of fees for each type of recreational fishing, hunting, and combination licence offered by the dept., and each of the categories is divided into fees for resident licenses and fees for nonresident licenses. Specifies that each section of law for hunting, fishing, and combination license fees includes a list of certain nonresident categories that may qualify for resident rates. (R.S. 56:3000(F), 3001, 3002, and 3004 as enacted by Act 356 of the 2021 Regular Session)

Proposed law retains resident rate eligibility for certain categories of nonresidents only within the license requirements and definitions section and removes the duplicative statements provided under each of the fishing, hunting, and combination license fee provisions to remove the potential for inconsistency.

Present law, effective until June 1, 2022, offers an annual hunting and fishing license for resident and native-born retired military personnel for the cost of \$5. (R.S. 56:643(C))

Present law, effective June 1, 2022, offers a Senior/Retired Military hunting and fishing license for resident and native-born retired military personnel for half the cost of an annual resident hunting and

fishing license. (R.S. 56:3000(G)(4) as enacted by Act 356 of the 2021 Regular Session)

Present law, effective June 1, 2022, also provides that the fee for a Senior/Retired Military combination hunting and fishing license fee is \$20. (R.S. 56:3004(A) as enacted by Act 356 of the 2021 Regular Session)

Proposed law retains the set fee of \$20 for a Senior/Retired Military combination license and changes the definition provision for the license by replacing "one-half the cost of an annual resident license" with the set fee of \$20, making the definition and fee provisions consistent.

Effective on June 1, 2022 if enacted on or before June 1, 2022 and supercedes any conflicting provisions of Act No. 356 of the 2021 R.S. However, if enacted on or after June 2, 2022 effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 56:3000(G), 3001, 3002, and 3004(Section heading), (A)(2) and (3), and (B)(introductory paragraph); Adds R.S. 56:3000(F)(4) and (5))