



HOUSE BILL 1019: Fallen Wildlife Officers Memorial License.

2017-2018 General Assembly

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| Committee: | House State and Local Government II. If favorable, re-refer to Appropriations | Date: | June 6, 2018 |
| Introduced by: | Reps. Dixon, J. Bell, Lewis, Adams | Prepared by: | Nicholas Giddings Staff Attorney |
| Analysis of: | First Edition | | |

OVERVIEW: House Bill 1019 would create the Fallen Wildlife Officers Memorial Lifetime Sportsman License, which would provide a lifetime sportsman license free of charge to a surviving spouse, child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of a wildlife enforcement officer killed in the line of duty. The bill would also appropriate \$5,000 in nonrecurring funds to the Wildlife Resources Commission to design the license and implement the provisions of this act.

CURRENT LAW: Sportsman licenses entitle the licensee to statewide hunting and inland fishing. This includes hunting for big game, hunting on game lands, hunting for waterfowl, fishing in public mountain trout waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters. It does not include fishing in coastal waters.¹ Sportsman licenses may be purchased on an annual basis for residents of North Carolina, or for the lifetime of the licensee for residents and nonresidents.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 1019 would create the Fallen Wildlife Officers Memorial Lifetime Sportsman License, also known as the John Oliver Edwards Memorial Lifetime Sportsman License. This license would be issued free of charge to a surviving spouse, child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of a wildlife enforcement officer killed in the line of duty. Each applicant seeking to be issued a Fallen Wildlife Officers Memorial Lifetime Sportsman License must provide proof of relationship to the fallen wildlife officer. On top of entitling the licensee to statewide hunting and inland fishing, the license would allow a nonresident licensee to avoid having to purchase a nonresident bear hunting license, and allow resident and nonresident licensees to receive bear management stamps at no cost.

The bill would also appropriate \$5,000 in nonrecurring funds to the Wildlife Resources Commission to design and develop the license and to implement the provisions of this act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the bill would become effective July 1, 2019. The remainder of the bill would become effective when law.

BACKGROUND: Since 1930, eleven wildlife enforcement officers have fallen in the line of duty. John Oliver Edwards lost his life in the line of duty on August 3, 1963. This license is named in his memory.

¹ G.S. 113-270.1D.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



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Legislative Analysis
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