

House Bill 350
February 7, 2013
Presented by Hank Worsech
House Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Hank Worsech, License Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here to provide information for House Bill 350.

HB 350 would allow members of the regular armed forces who are stationed in Montana or Montana residents in the regular armed forces who are stationed outside of Montana to receive a Class AAA (Sportsman's without bear) license free of charge, upon payment of the \$2 hunting access enhancement fee.

Montana currently recognizes the military service and sacrifice of our men and women who served in a contingency operation after September 11, 2001. Individuals who were Montana residents at the time they entered the armed services and continued to be Montana residents during their service are entitled to receive free Class AAA which is a Sportsman Combination License that includes conservation, fishing, upland game bird, general deer and general elk licenses, for five years. Once released from active duty with a copy of their DD 214 (Separation from Active Duty Document), and the yearly payment of the \$2 hunting access enhancement fee, they receive a Class AAA license for five years. To ensure this recognition comes from the whole state and not just the sportsmen and women license fees, the Department is reimbursed from the General Fund for the cost of issuing these licenses.

In 2012 the Department issued 1,298 "Military Recognition Sportsman License" to our resident veterans.

Thank you.