

Fiscal Note 2025 Biennium

Bill information:									
HB0843 - Free hunting/fishing for service members/veterans with 50% disability rating (Kerns, Scot)									
Status:	As Introduced								
☐Significant Local Gov Impact		□ Needs to be included in HB 2	⊠Technical Concerns						
☐Included in the Executive Budget		☐ Significant Long-Term Impacts	☐Dedicated Revenue Form Attached						

FISCAL SUMMARY

	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
	Difference	Difference	Difference	Difference
Expenditures:				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue:				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue	(\$129,068)	(\$129,068)	(\$129,068)	(\$129,068)
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Net Impact-General Fund Balance:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

<u>Description of fiscal impact:</u> HB 843 provides for resident disabled veterans of the armed forces with a minimum of 50% service-connected disability to receive a wildlife conservation license, base hunting license, aquatic invasive species prevention pass, and a Class AAA Sportsman's Combination license not to include a Class A-6 Bear tag, at no cost.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions:

- 1. This bill moves disabled veterans' language for restrictions on hunting licenses to licenses for service members in 87-2-817 (2)(b), MCA.
- 2. The bill creates a new section that provides a Montana resident veteran, who has a qualified service-connected disability of 50% or greater the option of four different licenses at no cost.

- 3. Data received from the Montana Department of Military Affairs; Veterans Affairs Division shows there are approximately 26,817 veterans with percentage rated service-connected disability. Of those 15,748 have a service-connected disability 50% or greater.
- 4. It is assumed a minimum of 10% of resident disabled veteran hunters with a 50% service-connected disability that would take advantage of these free licenses, or 1,574.
- 5. The current cost to purchase the four licenses is \$82.
- 6. It is assumed the minimum annual reduction in revenue for resident disabled veterans would be, (1,574 veterans x \$82) = \$129,068 in FY 2023 through FY 2027.
- 7. The effective date of the bill is March 1, 2024 and the majority of licenses are purchased in May & June.

	FY 2024 Difference	FY 2025 <u>Difference</u>	FY 2026 <u>Difference</u>	FY 2027 <u>Difference</u>
Fiscal Impact:				
Expenditures: Personal Services Operating Expenses TOTAL Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funding of Expenditures: General Fund (01) State Special Revenue (02) TOTAL Funding of Exp.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenues: General Fund (01) State Special Revenue (02) TOTAL Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	(\$129,068)	(\$129,068)	(\$129,068)	(\$129,068)
	(\$129,068)	(\$129,068)	(\$129,068)	(\$129,068)
Net Impact to Fund Balance General Fund (01) State Special Revenue (02)	* (Revenue minus Fu * \$0 (\$129,068)	nding of Expenditur \$0 (\$129,068)	\$0 (\$129,068)	\$0 (\$129,068)

Technical Notes:

1. There is a discrepancy between documentation required to show the disability rating between residents and non-residents. A resident would have to verify their military disability rating by providing documentation from the Veterans Administration showing their percentage rating. As outlined in 87-2-803(9)(b), MCA, non-residents would show their disability after certification from a licensed Health Care provider and completion of the department's certification form but are not required to show a percentage of disability rating like residents would be required to provide.

NOT SIGNED BY SPONSOR
Sponsor's Initials

Budget Director's Initials

321-23 Date