

House Bill 208 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Rhodes of the 120th, Knight of the 130th, Efstration of the 104th, Rogers of the 10th, and Nimmer of the 178th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to game and fish, so as to revise definitions, license fees, and license requirements; to amend Code Section 52-7-5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to numbering of vessels, requirements, and fees, so as to revise boat registration fees and allow additional methods for reporting the sale of boats; to correct cross-references; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to game and fish, is amended in Code Section 27-1-2, relating to definitions relative to game and fish, by revising paragraph (60) and adding a new paragraph to read as follows:

"(60) 'Resident' means any citizen of the United States who has been domiciled within the State of Georgia for a period of at least three months. For purposes of issuing or procuring the noncommercial hunting and fishing licenses required by this title, the term 'resident' shall include full-time military personnel on active duty and the dependents of such military personnel; provided, however, that requirements for residency as defined in ~~paragraph (5) of subsection (e) of subparagraph (c)(4)(A) of~~ Code Section 27-2-3.1 shall apply to such military personnel and their dependents for all lifetime license types listed in Code Section 27-2-3.1 that are only available to residents. Requirements for residency as defined in ~~paragraph (5) of subsection (e) of subparagraph (c)(4)(A) of~~ Code Section 27-2-3.1 shall also apply to such military personnel and their dependents for all honorary or discounted license types listed in Code Section 27-2-4 and to the landowner exemption in subsection (b) of Code Section 27-2-1, provided that the domicile requirement shall be a period of at least three months."

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25 "(63.1) 'Seafood dealer' means any person other than the consumer who purchases, ships,
26 consigns, transfers, barter, accepts, maintains, or packs any marine fishery products
27 received from commercial seafood harvesters or marine aquaculturists for the first time."

28 SECTION 2.

29 Said title is further amended in Code Section 27-2-1, relating to hunting, trapping, or fishing
30 without a license or permit, by revising subsection (b) as follows:

31 "(b) It shall be unlawful for any resident of this state who has attained the age of 16 years
32 to hunt, fish in the waters of this state, or trap without a valid hunting license, fishing
33 license, or trapping license, respectively, as provided in Code Section 27-2-23, except on
34 premises owned by him or her or his or her immediate family; provided, however, that the
35 resident owner of any vessel with a valid registration in accordance with Code Section
36 52-7-5 shall have, as part of the registration fee for such vessel, a paid ~~three-day~~ one-day
37 resident hunting and fishing license ~~that begins~~ valid only on such owner's date of birth ~~and~~
38 ~~extends two consecutive days thereafter~~ in accordance with the requirements of this title
39 and as otherwise specified by the department. It shall be unlawful for any resident of this
40 state to hunt, fish, or trap in this state without carrying such license upon his or her person,
41 except on premises owned by him or her or his or her immediate family and except when
42 otherwise specifically directed by authorized personnel of the department."

43 SECTION 3.

44 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-3, relating to effective periods
45 of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses, as follows:

46 "27-2-3.

47 (a) Except as otherwise specifically provided, all hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses,
48 including without limitation commercial fishing and commercial fishing boat licenses
49 issued pursuant to Code Section 27-2-8, shall be effective from April 1 to March 31 of the
50 following year; except that all annual, two-year, or other multiyear hunting, fishing, and
51 hunting and fishing combination licenses issued pursuant to paragraphs (1) through (4) of
52 Code Section 27-2-23 shall be effective through the applicable one-year, two-year, or
53 multiyear anniversary of the date of issuance. If a person possesses a valid annual,
54 two-year, or other multiyear hunting, fishing, or hunting and fishing combination license
55 at the time of sale of one or more annual, two-year, or other multiyear licenses with
56 identical privileges to the valid license, the new license or licenses shall become effective
57 when the original license expires and shall remain valid through the full applicable period.
58 The department may specify the effective dates and term of the following licenses or
59 permits:

(1) The Georgia waterfowl and migratory bird stamp to meet requirements of Code Section 27-2-20;

(2) The free Georgia salt water fishing endorsement to meet requirements of Code Section 27-2-20.1; and

(3) Any permit or requirement authorized by Code Section 27-3-29 regarding harvest recording and reporting.

(b) Multiyear licenses valid for any desired number of years may be purchased through a single transaction for licenses listed in paragraphs (1) through (4) of Code Section 27-2-23. The fee for any such multiyear license shall be equivalent to the lowest cost combination of annual or two-year licenses necessary to form the desired multiyear license period. No ~~multiyear~~ resident license shall be valid at the time of hunting or fishing unless the licensee is a resident of this state at such time, except for lifetime licenses."

SECTION 4.

Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-3.1, relating to hunting and sportsman's licenses, as follows:

"27-2-3.1.

(a) The requirements in this title for procuring any paid license or permit for noncommercial hunting and fishing privileges, except for ~~hunting~~ harvesting alligators, shall be satisfied by a resident or nonresident who procures a sportsman's license. ~~An applicant for such license shall, prior to the issuance of the license, complete a screening questionnaire associated with the federal Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program;~~ provided, however, that the department may specify other nonpaid licenses and permits required by law or by rule or regulation of the board. An applicant for such license shall furnish all information required by the department prior to the issuance of such license. An applicant for any paid or nonpaid license who is a resident shall certify and provide satisfactory evidence of his or her residency as set forth in paragraph (4) of subsection (c) of this Code section.

(b) All licenses, stamps, or permits for noncommercial hunting and fishing privileges shall be attached to or printed on a form provided by the department which shall include the applicant's name, address, date of birth, and hunter safety certification number; provided, however, that each such item of information may be, but is not required to be, printed on lifetime licenses.

(c)(1) The requirements in this title for procuring any paid license, stamp, or permit for noncommercial hunting and fishing privileges shall be satisfied by a resident or nonresident who procures a lifetime sportsman's license; provided, however, that the department may specify other required nonpaid licenses and permits required by law or

by rule or regulation of the board for such resident or nonresident and that an applicant for such license shall furnish all information required by the department prior to the issuance of such license; and provided, further, that the requirements in this title for procuring any paid license, stamp, or permit for noncommercial hunting or for noncommercial fishing privileges, separately, shall be satisfied by a resident or nonresident who procures a lifetime sportsman's license for hunting only or for fishing only, respectively, as described in subparagraph (d)(1)(E) of this Code section.

~~(2) An applicant for such license who is a resident shall certify and provide satisfactory evidence of his or her residency as set forth in paragraph (5) of this subsection.~~

~~(3)~~ An applicant for a veteran's lifetime sportsman's license shall, in addition to satisfactory evidence of residency, be required to provide satisfactory evidence that he or she served more than 90 days of federal active duty military service and was honorably discharged.

~~(4)~~(3) An applicant for ~~such~~ a lifetime sportsman's license who is a nonresident shall not be eligible for issuance of such license unless:

(A) He or she is from two through 15 years of age and is the grandchild of a resident who holds a valid paid lifetime sportsman's license (~~not excluding~~ a no-cost Type S lifetime license). The resident grandparent who holds such a lifetime sportsman's license and who is the sponsor of an eligible nonresident applicant for a lifetime sportsman's license shall certify the nonresident applicant's relationship to him or her in writing to the department; or

(B) He or she is less than two years of age.

~~(5)~~(4)(A) For purposes of procuring a lifetime sportsman's license, the term 'residency' means a domicile within Georgia for a minimum of three consecutive months immediately prior to procuring such license. Satisfactory evidence of residency shall consist of a current Georgia driver's license or official Georgia identification card issued by the Department of Driver Services; provided, however, that no license or identification card issued pursuant to Code Section 40-5-21.1 shall satisfy the requirements of this paragraph.

(B) Minors under 18 years of age shall be presumed to be residents upon proof of parent's resident status as provided for in this Code section. For purposes of procuring the Type I (Infant) and Type Y (Youth) lifetime license, a copy of a certified copy of the birth certificate of the licensee shall be required to show age (Types I and Y) and parentage (Type Y). A court order or other legal document establishing parental rights or legal custody may be provided to show parentage.

(d)(1) Lifetime sportsman's licenses and fees for residents shall be as follows:

(A) Type I (Infant), available only to those individuals under two years of age: ~~\$200.00~~
~~\$500.00~~;

(B) Type Y (Youth), available only to those individuals from two through 15 years of
 age: ~~\$350.00~~ \$600.00;

(C) Type A (Adult), available to those individuals 16 years to 49 years of age ~~or older~~:
~~\$500.00~~ \$750.00;

(C.1) Type OA (Older Adult), available to those individuals 50 years to 59 years of
age: \$375.00;

(D) Type SD (Senior Discount), available to those individuals 60 years to 64 years of
 age ~~or older~~: ~~\$95.00~~ \$315.00;

(E) Type S (Senior), available to those individuals 65 years of age or older born on or
before June 30, 1952; no charge;. The lifetime sportsman's licenses and fees available
to those individuals 65 years of age and older born after June 30, 1952, shall be as
follows:

(i) Type SP (Senior Paid): \$70.00;

(ii) Type SH (Senior Hunt), for hunting only: \$35.00; and

(iii) Type SF (Senior Fish), for fishing only: \$35.00;

(F) Type V (Veterans), available only to those individuals who served more than 90
 days of federal active duty military service and were honorably discharged: 80 percent
 of the amount of the fee specified for Type A lifetime sportsman's licenses in
 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph; ~~and~~

(G) Type M (Military), available only to those residents currently in active military
service and who are in possession of a valid United States Department of Defense
Common Access Card with a Uniformed Services affiliation. As used in this
subsection, the term 'active military service' means service on active duty with the
armed forces of the United States or service with a reserve component of the armed
forces of the United States, including service in the Georgia National Guard or National
Guard of another state: 80 percent of the amount of the fee specified for Type A
lifetime sportsman's licenses in subparagraph (C) of this paragraph; and

~~(G)~~(H) Type SP (Shooting Preserve), available to any individual, resident or
 nonresident, and which entitles the holder to hunt pen raised game birds and fish in any
 private or state waters within the boundaries of a properly licensed shooting preserve:
 \$75.00.

(2) The fee for any lifetime sportsman's license for a nonresident, Type NR, shall be
 twice the amount of the fee for a Type A (Adult) lifetime sportsman's license for a
 resident, except that the fee for a nonresident Type I (Infant) license shall be the same fee
 as for a resident Type I (Infant) license.

(3) After July 1, 2017, the General Assembly shall not increase the cost of any license provided for in this subsection by more than 20 percent.

(e) Lifetime sportsman's licenses shall be valid for the lifetime of the purchaser, whether resident or nonresident. Change of residency to another state shall not affect the validity of the lifetime license when hunting or fishing in Georgia.

(f) The commissioner shall revoke the lifetime sportsman's license of any person who knowingly attempts to or does purchase, obtain, or assist another person to obtain a lifetime sportsman's license by fraudulent means, without refund of any fees paid.

(g) Upon payment of a replacement fee of up to ~~\$10.00~~ \$15.00, any durable plastic card showing a lifetime sportsman's license or other valid license may be replaced if lost, stolen, or destroyed, provided that the applicant's name and lifetime license number or other required license information are in the records of the department.

(h) Once a lifetime license is issued, no refunds of fees will be made except in the case of the death before age 16 years of a Type I (Infant) lifetime license holder or a Type Y (Youth) license holder, in which case a full refund of fees collected may be made upon submission of the lifetime license and any other documentation required by the department.

(i) The requirements in this title for procuring any paid license, stamp, or permit for noncommercial hunting and fishing privileges shall be satisfied by a resident youth younger than 16 years of age who procures an optional annual or an optional multiyear resident youth sportsman's license. The requirements in this title for procuring any paid license, stamp, or permit for noncommercial fishing privileges shall be satisfied by a youth younger than 16 years of age who procures an optional annual or an optional multiyear resident youth license for fishing only. A resident youth multiyear fishing license or resident youth multiyear sportsman's license will be valid from the time of purchase until such person reaches 17 years of age. The department may require satisfactory evidence to show age and residency before issuing an annual or youth multiyear license."

SECTION 5.

Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-4, relating to honorary licenses, as follows:

"27-2-4.

(a) The department shall issue ~~an honorary~~ a discounted hunting and fishing license, which shall entitle a resident to hunt and fish in this state without the payment of fees described in Code Section 27-2-23, to each resident who is permanently and totally disabled. For purposes of this Code section, a permanent, total disability shall be a physical or mental impairment of a total and permanent nature ~~which prevents gainful employment and which~~ is certified as such by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs, the Social Security

Administration, Medicaid, medicare, the Railroad Retirement System, or a unit of federal, state, or local government recognized by the board by rule or regulation; provided, however, that persons disabled because of a mental impairment shall be issued ~~an honorary~~ a discounted fishing license only. Persons issued ~~an honorary~~ a discounted license under disability provisions shall renew such licenses and recertify their eligibility for such licenses every three years; provided, however, that ~~honorary~~ licenses in effect as of July 1, 1998, shall not require renewal. The fee for a discounted three-year license issued pursuant to this subsection shall be \$9.00 for hunting or fishing only and \$15.00 for hunting and fishing combined. The fee for a discounted annual license issued pursuant to this subsection shall be \$3.00 for hunting or fishing only and \$5.00 for hunting and fishing combined.

(b) Any resident who is totally blind and who applies to the department shall receive a lifetime honorary fishing license which shall entitle the holder thereof to fish in this state without the payment of any fee whatsoever.

(c) Any person holding a valid honorary or discounted license pursuant to this Code section shall not be required to obtain the trout license and big game license otherwise required by Code Section 27-2-6.

(d) All honorary and discounted hunting and fishing licenses are subject to all wildlife laws, rules, and regulations with the exception of the provisions requiring the payment of fees described in Code Section 27-2-23 for such licenses. Such honorary and discounted licenses may be revoked in accordance with this title. It shall be unlawful for any person who has an honorary or discounted hunting and fishing license to permit the use of same by any other person. It shall also be unlawful for any person who is not entitled to ~~an honorary~~ a discounted hunting and fishing license to use such a license or for any totally and permanently disabled person issued such a license to possess or use such license when the disability is no longer total or permanent. Licenses for the totally and permanently disabled may, upon a determination that the disability is no longer total or permanent, be revoked until such time as the disability is again total and permanent.

(e) The commissioner is authorized to make and enter into agreements from time to time with the proper authorities of various states of the United States regarding nonresident hunting and fishing license fees for persons 65 years of age or older so as to provide ~~honorary~~ discounted hunting and fishing licenses to be issued ~~without charge~~ to nonresidents 65 years of age or older where such practice is reciprocated for Georgia residents in that person's state of residence.

(f) Persons holding lifetime honorary licenses issued to persons 65 years of age or older prior to April 1, 1999, shall not be required to obtain a lifetime license pursuant to Code

Section 27-2-3.1, and such lifetime honorary license shall carry the same rights and privileges as a lifetime license issued pursuant to that Code section.

(g)(1) As used in this subsection, the term 'returning veteran' means a person who is discharged from active duty as a member of the regular or reserve component of the United States armed forces, the United States Coast Guard, the Georgia National Guard, or the Georgia Air National Guard and who was on ordered federal duty for a period of 90 days or longer.

(2) The department shall issue an honorary hunting and fishing license to any returning veteran which shall entitle him or her to hunt and fish in this state without the payment of fees described in Code Section 27-2-23 for a period of one year following issuance. A returning veteran requesting such an honorary license shall provide proof of his or her discharge."

SECTION 6.

Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-4.2, relating to courtesy nonresident fishing licenses for certain veterans, as follows:

"27-2-4.2.

The department is authorized to issue a courtesy nonresident fishing license, without fee, to any person who is not a resident of this state who is a paralyzed or disabled veteran and who is participating in an organized fishing tournament in this state which is sponsored and conducted by a nonprofit charitable association of paralyzed or disabled veterans, provided that such tournament is approved by the department. Such courtesy nonresident license shall be valid for use only during the specified dates of such tournament and for a maximum of seven days and shall include all requirements and privileges of a nonresident fishing license, including the nonresident trout license, for use only in association with such tournament."

SECTION 7.

Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-5, relating to required hunter education courses, as follows:

"27-2-5.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person born on or after January 1, 1961, to procure a hunting license or to hunt by means of weapons in this state unless that person has been issued a certificate or other evidence the department deems acceptable which indicates satisfactory completion of a hunter education course as prescribed by the board. Persons ages ~~16~~ 12 through 25 shall provide such certificate or other evidence to the issuing agent at the time of purchase of a hunting license. All persons required by this subsection to

complete a hunter education course, by ~~signing~~ buying such license, by receiving a temporary license identification number, or by receiving a license from a telephone license agent, Internet license agent, or other vendor, shall certify by such action their compliance with this subsection.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person authorized to issue hunting licenses in this state to issue a hunting license to any person age 16 through 25 unless that license agent shall have been provided with a certificate showing the license applicant has satisfactorily completed a hunter education course as prescribed by the board, or to any other person born on or after January 1, 1961, unless such person provides such other evidence of completion of a hunter education course as the department deems acceptable. Internet and telephone license agents may accept a valid hunter education certificate number as fulfillment of this requirement.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person age 16 through 25 who is not required by law to obtain a hunting license to hunt in this state unless that person carries on his or her person while hunting a certificate attesting to that person's satisfactory completion of a hunter education course as prescribed by the board. Such person shall present his or her certificate to a conservation ranger or deputy conservation ranger for inspection upon demand.

(d) Any person who is age 12 through 15 shall satisfactorily complete a hunter education course as a prerequisite to hunting with a weapon in this state. It shall be unlawful for any adult to permit his or her child or ward age 12 through 15 to hunt with a weapon unless the child has a certificate attesting to his or her satisfactory completion of such course on his or her person; provided, however, that a hunter education course is not required for a child ~~age 12 through 15~~ less than 16 years of age who is hunting under adult supervision by a licensed adult hunter.

(e) Any person applying for an annual or multiyear nonresident hunting/fishing license may provide a certificate of completion or such other evidence of completion the department deems acceptable of the official hunter education or hunter safety course of such person's state of residence if that course shall have been approved by the department. ~~Those persons~~ No one applying for a hunting license ~~other than a season hunting of less than one year in duration or for a lifetime~~ license shall ~~not~~ be required to exhibit such a certificate or to complete a hunter education course in order to obtain the license. Persons holding a lifetime license shall complete an official hunter education or hunter safety course and display proof of completion as specified by the department in order to hunt unless otherwise exempted by this title.

(f) By rule or regulation, the board shall prescribe a course of instruction in competency and safety in hunting and in the handling of weapons. The board shall also prescribe procedures whereby competent residents of this state shall be certified as hunter education

instructors. The board may provide, by rule or regulation, for charging reasonable fees for the issuance by the department of duplicate certificates of completion of a hunter education course and for hunter education courses in order to defray the expenses of conducting such courses. Any such fees shall be deemed as 'other income' of the department for purposes of subsection (c) of Code Section 27-1-13.

(g) Any person violating any provision of this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor; provided, however, that this subsection shall not apply to any person under the age of 16.

(h) The requirements of subsections (c) and (d) of this Code section shall not apply to any person hunting on his or her own land or that of his or her parents or legal guardian or to persons permitting a child or ward aged 12 through 15 years to hunt on the parent's or guardian's own land."

SECTION 8.

Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-6, relating to trout, waterfowl, big game, and alligator licenses, as follows:

"27-2-6.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person who has attained the age of 16 years to fish for or possess mountain trout or to fish in any waters designated as trout waters or trout streams pursuant to Code Section 27-4-51 unless such person has in his or her possession a trout license in addition to his or her fishing license.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person who has attained the age of 16 years to hunt or possess big game unless such person has in his or her possession a big game license in addition to the required hunting license; provided, however, that all nonresidents, regardless of age, must possess a nonresident hunting/fishing license along with any harvest records required by law or regulation to hunt big game in this state.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person who has attained the age of 16 years to hunt ducks, geese, or swans unless such person has in his or her possession ~~an official Georgia waterfowl license~~ a Georgia waterfowl and migratory bird stamp in addition to the required hunting license; ~~provided, however, that a Georgia waterfowl and migratory bird stamp or a landowner Georgia waterfowl and migratory bird stamp shall be required for any resident of this state to hunt migratory birds on premises owned by him or her or his or her immediate family.~~

(d) It shall be unlawful for any person who has attained the age of 16 years to hunt alligators unless such person has in his or her possession ~~an alligator hunting license in addition to the required~~ a valid hunting license; ~~provided, however, that this subsection shall not apply to lifetime license holders. A resident or nonresident alligator harvest~~

349 permit shall be required to harvest an alligator. Such permit shall be free to lifetime license
 350 holders if selected as part of any department quota or lottery.

351 (e) No resident of this state shall be required to obtain a trout license, ~~official Georgia~~
 352 ~~waterfowl license~~, or big game license to hunt, fish, or trap on premises owned by him or
 353 her or his or her immediate family.

354 (f) Any visitor to a state park, whether a resident or nonresident of Georgia, shall not be
 355 required to purchase a trout license when fishing in impounded waters on lands owned or
 356 leased by the department."

357 **SECTION 9.**

358 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-8, relating to commercial fishing
 359 boat licenses, as follows:

360 "27-2-8.

361 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in commercial fishing with a boat or
 362 vessel in the salt waters of this state without first obtaining a valid commercial fishing boat
 363 license for the boat or vessel. The owner or operator of the boat or vessel shall present in
 364 writing an application for the license, setting forth such data and information as the
 365 department shall require. The application shall be made upon a form prescribed by the
 366 department and shall be under oath and duly witnessed by an officer authorized by law to
 367 administer oaths.

368 (b) Fees for licenses required under this Code section shall be as follows:

369 (1) A trawler (which shall be any boat or vessel which utilizes one or more trawls or
 370 power-drawn nets in the taking of shrimp, crabs, or fish), up to and including 18 feet in
 371 overall length, ~~\$50.00;~~ \$85.00;

372 (2) A trawler more than 18 feet in overall length, ~~\$50.00;~~ \$85.00 plus \$3.00 per foot or
 373 fraction thereof of overall length in excess of 18 feet; and

374 (3) All boats other than trawlers, ~~up to and including 18 feet in overall~~ regardless of
 375 length; \$5.00;

376 ~~(4) All boats, other than trawlers, over 18 feet in overall length, \$5.00 plus 50¢ per foot~~
 377 ~~or fraction thereof in excess of 18 feet.~~

378 (c) To defray the additional cost of regulating and policing, aliens and nonresidents shall
 379 be charged a license fee in addition to that provided by subsection (b) of this Code section
 380 in the amount of ~~\$25.00~~ \$150.00 for each trawl boat or vessel used and \$50.00 for each
 381 boat or vessel other than a trawler used in commercial fishing or in the taking of seafood,
 382 which boat or vessel is owned, in whole or part, by such nonresident or alien, provided that,
 383 in the event such nonresident or alien applying for the license is a resident of another state
 384 which charges nonresidents a license fee greater than the total license fee charged for

nonresidents in this state, then the additional license fee provided for nonresidents in this subsection shall be increased to the amount necessary to cause the Georgia nonresident license fee to be the same amount as the nonresident license fee of such other state.

(d) The owner or operator of a trawler licensed according to subsection (b) of this Code section may purchase a trawler crew license as provided for in subparagraphs (W) and (X) of paragraph (8) of Code Section 27-2-23. Such license shall cover all crew members aboard the trawler while fishing, and all such crew members while so covered shall be exempt from the personal commercial fishing license requirements otherwise applicable under this title. Such trawler crew license shall be separate and distinct from any other license, shall be valid only for the trawler for which it is purchased, and shall not be transferable to any other trawler or vessel. Such trawler crew license shall be valid for a fishing year as provided for in Code Section 27-2-3 and shall be carried onboard the trawler while the trawler is in operation for purposes of the trawler crew license."

SECTION 10.

Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-20, relating to migratory bird hunting, as follows:

"27-2-20.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person 16 years of age or older to hunt brant, ducks, geese, and swans in this state without a federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person required to obtain a hunting license as provided in Code Section 27-2-1 to hunt any migratory game bird, including brant, ducks, geese, swans, doves, rails, woodcock, snipe, gallinules, and coots, without participating in the federal Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program. Participation in such program shall require the completion of a an annual screening questionnaire prior to obtaining a ~~free~~ Georgia waterfowl and migratory bird license and the stamp or a landowner Georgia waterfowl and migratory bird stamp. Persons holding any other license conveying migratory bird hunting privileges, including a lifetime sportsman's license, shall complete the annual screening questionnaire before hunting migratory birds. Persons shall be in possession of the license or other and evidence of participation in the annual screening questionnaire as provided by the department while hunting migratory birds."

SECTION 11.

Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-23, relating to license, permit, stamp, and tag fees, as follows:

"27-2-23.

Fees for licenses, permits, tags, and stamps required by this title shall be as follows:

420	(1) Hunting licenses:		
421	(A) Resident hunting license	Annual	\$10.00 <u>\$15.00</u>
422	(B) Resident hunting license	Two-year	18.00
423	<u>(B) Nonresident hunting license</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>100.00</u>
424	<u>(C) Nonresident hunting license</u>	<u>One-day</u>	<u>20.00</u>
425	(C)(D) Resident big game license	Annual	9.00 <u>25.00</u>
426	(D)(E) Nonresident big game license	Annual	195.00 <u>225.00</u>
427	<u>(F) Resident big game license</u>	<u>One-day</u>	<u>10.00</u>
428	(E)(G) Nonresident big game license	Three-day	90.00 <u>130.00</u>
429		<u>One-day</u>	
430	(F) Resident big game license	Two-year	16.00
431	<u>(H) Resident senior hunting license for 65</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>4.00</u>
432	<u>years of age or older</u>		
433	(G)(I) Shooting preserve hunting license valid	Two-year	12.00
434	for residents and nonresidents		
435	(H)(J) Commercial fox hunting preserve	Season	60.00 <u>75.00</u>
436	license	<u>Seasonal</u>	
437	(H)(K) Commercial fox breeder license	Season	60.00 <u>75.00</u>
438		<u>Seasonal</u>	
439	(J) Waterfowl license <u>(L) Georgia waterfowl</u>	Annual	5.50 <u>5.00</u>
440	<u>and migratory bird stamp</u> valid for residents		
441	and nonresidents		
442	<u>(M) Landowner Georgia waterfowl and</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>0.00</u>
443	<u>migratory bird stamp</u>		
444	(K) Waterfowl license valid for residents and	Two-year	11.00
445	nonresidents		
446	(L) Georgia migratory bird license	Annual	Free
447	(2) Hunting and fishing licenses:		
448	(A) Resident hunting/fishing license	Annual	17.00 <u>30.00</u>
449	(B) Resident hunting/fishing license	Two-year	31.00
450	(C)(B) Nonresident hunting/fishing license	Three-day	20.00 <u>30.00</u>
451		<u>One-day</u>	
452	(D)(C) Resident hunting/fishing license	Three-day	3.50 <u>5.00</u>
453		<u>One-day</u>	
454	(E)(D) Nonresident hunting/fishing license	Annual	100.00 <u>150.00</u>

455	(3) Sportsman's licenses:		
456	(A) Resident sportsman's license	Annual	55.00 <u>65.00</u>
457	(B) Resident sportsman's license	Two-year	105.00
458	<u>(B) Nonresident sportsman's license</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>400.00</u>
459	<u>(C) Resident sportsman's license</u>	<u>One-day</u>	<u>25.00</u>
460	<u>(D) Nonresident sportsman's license</u>	<u>One-day</u>	<u>170.00</u>
461	<u>(E) Resident optional youth sportsman's</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>5.00</u>
462	<u>license for 12 to 15 years of age</u>		
463	<u>(F) Resident optional youth sportsman's</u>	<u>Multiyear</u>	<u>15.00</u>
464	<u>license for 12 to 15 years of age</u>		
465	<u>(G) Resident senior sportsman's license for 65</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>7.00</u>
466	<u>years of age or older</u>		
467	(4) Recreational fishing licenses:		
468	(A) Resident fishing license	Annual	9.00 <u>15.00</u>
469	(B) Resident fishing license	Two-year	16.00
470	(C) <u>(B) Nonresident fishing license</u>	Annual	45.00 <u>50.00</u>
471	<u>(C) Nonresident fishing license</u>	<u>One-day</u>	<u>10.00</u>
472	(D) Resident trout license	Annual	5.00 <u>10.00</u>
473	(E) Resident trout license	Two-year	10.00
474	(F) <u>(E) Resident trout license</u>	Three-day	3.50 <u>5.00</u>
475		<u>One-day</u>	
476	(G) <u>(F) Nonresident trout license</u>	Annual	20.00 <u>25.00</u>
477	(H) <u>(G) Nonresident trout license</u>	Three-day	10.00
478		<u>One-day</u>	
479	(I) Salt-water shore fishing license	One-day	5.00
480	<u>(H) Resident optional youth fishing license</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>3.00</u>
481	<u>(I) Resident optional youth fishing license</u>	<u>Multiyear</u>	<u>10.00</u>
482	<u>(J) Resident senior fishing license for 65 years</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>4.00</u>
483	<u>of age or older</u>		
484	(5) Trapping licenses:		
485	(A) Resident commercial trapping license	Annual	30.00 <u>40.00</u>
486	(B) Nonresident commercial trapping license	Annual	295.00 <u>325.00</u>
487	(6) Commercial fishing licenses:		
488	(A) Resident commercial fishing license	Season	12.00 <u>20.00</u>
489		<u>Seasonal</u>	

490	(B) Nonresident commercial fishing license	Season	118.00 <u>200.00</u>
491		<u>Seasonal</u>	
492	<u>(C) Resident commercial fishing species</u>	<u>Seasonal</u>	<u>5.00</u>
493	<u>endorsement</u>		
494	<u>(D) Nonresident commercial fishing species</u>	<u>Seasonal</u>	<u>10.00</u>
495	<u>endorsement</u>		
496	(C) <u>(E)</u> Resident commercial crabbing license	Season	12.00 <u>20.00</u>
497		<u>Seasonal</u>	
498	(D) <u>(F)</u> Nonresident commercial crabbing	Season	118.00 <u>200.00</u>
499	license	<u>Seasonal</u>	
500	(7) Fur, hide, and pelt licenses:		
501	(A) Resident fur dealer license	Annual	295.00 <u>300.00</u>
502	(B) Nonresident fur dealer license	Annual	415.00 <u>450.00</u>
503	(C) Fur dealer's agent license	Annual	180.00 <u>200.00</u>
504	(8) Miscellaneous licenses and permits:		
505	(A) Retail fish dealer license	Annual	10.00 <u>40.00</u>
506	(B) Wholesale fish dealer license	Annual	59.00 <u>75.00</u>
507	(C) Resident game-holding permit	Annual	5.00
508	(D) Commercial quail breeder permit	Annual	30.00
509	(E) Scientific collecting permit	Annual	50.00 <u>75.00</u>
510	(F) Wildlife exhibition permit	Annual	59.00 <u>150.00</u>
511	(G) Commercial shooting preserve license	Annual	150.00
512	(H) Private shooting preserve license	Annual	50.00
513	(I) Reserved.		
514	(J) Commercial fish hatchery license	Annual	59.00 <u>75.00</u>
515	(K) Catch-out pond license	Annual	236.00 <u>250.00</u>
516	(L) Soft-shell crab dealer license	Annual	10.00 <u>40.00</u>
517	(M) Resident taxidermist license	Three-year	150.00
518	(N) Nonresident taxidermist license	Three-year	500.00
519	(O) Falconry permit	Three-year	30.00 <u>40.00</u>
520	(P) Commercial alligator farming license	Annual	50.00 <u>75.00</u>
521	(Q) Resident alligator hunting license <u>harvest</u>	Annual	50.00 <u>75.00</u>
522	<u>permit</u>		
523	(R) Nonresident alligator hunting license	Annual	200.00 <u>250.00</u>
524	<u>harvest permit</u>		

525	(S) Wild animal license	Annual	236.00 <u>250.00</u>
526	(T) Wild animal auction license	Seven-day	5,000.00 <u>5,500.00</u>
527	(U) Resident bait dealer license	Season	25.00 <u>40.00</u>
528		<u>Seasonal</u>	
529	(V) Nonresident bait dealer license	Season	150.00 <u>250.00</u>
530		<u>Seasonal</u>	
531	(W) Resident film production wildlife permit	Annual	300.00
532	(X) Nonresident film production wildlife	Annual	600.00
533	permit		
534	<u>(Y) Resident trawler crew license</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>200.00</u>
535	<u>(Z) Nonresident trawler crew license</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>600.00</u>
536	<u>(AA) Seafood dealer license</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>40.00</u>
537	(9) <u>Any one-day license purchased that has not expired may be extended for up to ten</u>		
538	<u>additional consecutive days by payment of additional reduced rate daily fees:</u>		
539	<u>(A) Nonresident hunting license: \$6.00 per day;</u>		
540	<u>(B) Resident big game license: \$2.00 per day;</u>		
541	<u>(C) Nonresident big game license: \$8.00 per day;</u>		
542	<u>(D) Nonresident hunting/fishing license: \$10.00 per day;</u>		
543	<u>(E) Resident hunting/fishing license: \$1.00 per day;</u>		
544	<u>(F) Nonresident fishing license: \$3.50 per day;</u>		
545	<u>(G) Resident trout license: \$1.00 per day;</u>		
546	<u>(H) Nonresident trout license: \$2.00 per day;</u>		
547	<u>(I) Resident sportsman's license: \$3.00 per day; and</u>		
548	<u>(J) Nonresident sportsman's license: \$20.00 per day.</u>		
549	(10) The board is authorized to provide by rule for a fee not to exceed \$19.00 for resident		
550	daily, seasonal, or annual use permits, or licenses; a fee of \$38.00 for resident two-year		
551	use permits; or a fee not to exceed \$73.00 for nonresident annual use permits or licenses		
552	to hunt and fish on or otherwise use specially designated streams, lakes, public fishing		
553	areas, or wildlife management areas.		
554	(11) <u>For wildlife that may be legally taken by commercial fishing gear as authorized in</u>		
555	<u>this title or by board rule, the board may designate which species of wildlife or species</u>		
556	<u>grouping of wildlife require a commercial fishing species endorsement for a fee shown</u>		
557	<u>in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of paragraph (6) of this Code section in addition to the</u>		
558	<u>required commercial fishing license. Each species or group of species so designated shall</u>		
559	<u>require a separate commercial fishing species endorsement.</u>		

~~(10)(12)~~ The fees for any annual license established in subparagraphs ~~(1)(A) through~~
~~(1)(F), (2)(A), (2)(B), (2)(E), (3)(A), (3)(B), (4)(A), (4)(B), (4)(C), (4)(D), (4)(E), and~~
~~(4)(G)~~ (A) through (E) of paragraph (1) and in paragraph (2), (3), or (4) of this Code
 section shall be reduced by \$2.75 the amount of the lowest available renewal transaction
fee for each renewal transaction made before the expiration date of the then current
 license or tag. For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'renewal transaction' means the
 renewal of one or more licenses by a licensee during a single telephone call, Internet
 session, or on-site visit to a store.

(13) After July 1, 2017, the General Assembly shall not increase the cost of any license,
permit, tag, or stamp provided for in this Code section by more than 20 percent."

SECTION 12.

Said title is further amended by revising subsection (c) of Code Section 27-2-28, relating to
 unlawful collection of funds, as follows:

"(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to counterfeit, change, or alter or to attempt to
 counterfeit, change, or alter any license or permit issued pursuant to this title. It shall be
 unlawful for any person, other than a license agent authorized by the department or
 authorized personnel of the department, to collect any funds for any license or permit
 issued pursuant to this title or to charge a fee to obtain any such license or permit."

SECTION 13.

Said title is further amended by revising subsections (g) and (h) of Code Section 27-3-17,
 relating to hunting deer with dogs, as follows:

~~"(g) Any person 16 years of age or older, including without limitation any person hunting~~
~~on his or her own property, who hunts deer with dogs must obtain and possess a deer-dog~~
~~hunting license in addition to all other required hunting licenses and permits. The license~~
~~fee for such deer-dog license shall be \$5.00 for a one-year period, except that there shall~~
~~be no charge for any holder of a valid honorary hunting license, sportsman's license, or~~
~~lifetime sportsman's license issued pursuant to this title.~~

~~(h)~~(g) In addition to the provisions of subsection (f) of this Code section, the commissioner
 may ~~revoke a deer-dog license~~ suspend deer-dog hunting privileges for a specified period
of time not to exceed two years for any hunter who, within a single hunting season,
 commits two or more violations of dogs off of permitted property. The hunter shall be
notified of the proposed suspension personally or by a letter sent by certified mail or
statutory overnight delivery to the hunter's address indicated on the application for a
hunting license. The proposed suspension shall become final 30 days after issuance if not
appealed as provided in this Code section. The hunter shall, upon petition within 30 days

595 of issuance of notice given as stated in this Code section, have a right to a hearing before
596 an administrative law judge appointed by the board. The hearing before the administrative
597 law judge shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the 'Georgia
598 Administrative Procedure Act,' and the rules and regulations adopted by the board pursuant
599 thereto. The decision of the administrative law judge shall constitute the final decision of
600 the board, and any party to the hearing, including the commissioner, shall have the right
601 of judicial review thereof in accordance with such chapter."

602 **SECTION 14.**

603 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-4-30, relating to fishing in private
604 ponds, as follows:

605 "27-4-30.

606 The owner of a private pond, the owner's immediate family, or tenants with the owner's
607 consent shall be permitted to fish within the bounds of the pond at any time and in any
608 manner without a fishing license. All other persons shall be required to obtain fishing
609 licenses to fish within the bounds of a private pond as provided in this title unless the fish
610 in the private pond are 'domestic fish' as defined in paragraph (23) of Code Section 27-1-2.
611 For the purposes of this Code section, the term 'private pond' shall not include ponds owned
612 by city or county governments, the State of Georgia, the United States, or authorities or
613 political subdivisions of such governments."

614 **SECTION 15.**

615 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-4-110, relating to required
616 commercial fishing license, as follows:

617 "27-4-110.

618 It shall be unlawful for any person other than the crew of a trawler licensed as provided in
619 Code Section 27-2-8 with a trawler crew license, for purposes of such license, or a person
620 in possession of a valid commercial crabbing license as provided for in Code Section
621 27-4-150, for purposes of such license, or a person in possession of a commercial food
622 shrimp cast netting license as provided in Code Section 27-4-205, for purposes of such
623 license, to engage in commercial fishing in any of the salt waters of this state without first
624 obtaining a commercial fishing license, which shall be carried on his or her person while
625 engaging in such activities. Each license shall be separate and distinct from each other and
626 separate from and in addition to the commercial fishing boat license required by Code
627 Section 27-2-8."

SECTION 16.

Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-4-136, relating to maintenance of records by suppliers, as follows:

"27-4-136.

(a)(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate as a seafood dealer or to own or operate shellfish canning or shucking facilities or otherwise deal in purchasing, landing, packing, or supplying raw shrimp, shellfish, crabs, fish, or other seafood for commercial purposes without having a valid seafood dealer license as provided for in Code Section 27-2-23.

~~(2) It shall be unlawful for any person owning or operating shellfish canning or shucking facilities or otherwise dealing in purchasing, landing, packing, or supplying raw shrimp, shellfish, crabs, fish, or other seafood for commercial purposes~~ required to have a seafood dealer license to fail to keep a record in which is entered the amount of shrimp, shellfish, crabs, fish, or other seafood taken from Georgia waters for commercial purposes; the name of each person from whom purchased; the date and price of purchase; the grade and quantity purchased; the name, number, and approximate tonnage of the boat in which they were brought to the facility; the number of calendar days expended in harvesting the product; the approximate location or locations of harvest; the quantity canned and packed for shipment; the date and amount of each shipment; and such other information as the department requires.

~~(2)(3)~~ (3) Each person required to maintain records pursuant to paragraph ~~(1)~~ (2) of this subsection shall report such information to the department, whose address for the purpose of reporting shall be the Coastal Resource Division headquarters, at such times and in such manner as the board provides by rule or regulation.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any master collecting permittee to fail to maintain records in a form as prescribed by the Department of Agriculture.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person required to have a seafood dealer license to purchase seafood from any person other than a properly licensed seafood harvester or another seafood dealer."

SECTION 17.

Said article is further amended by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (g) of Code Section 27-4-151, relating to use of crab traps, as follows:

"(g)(1)(A) The first time after July 1, 1998, that a person obtains or renews a commercial crabbing license, he or she shall obtain a permit from the department establishing the maximum number of traps he or she may deploy at any given time during that license year. Such permits shall be issued in 50 trap increments up to a

maximum of 200 traps. The licensee shall pay a fee of ~~\$2.00~~ \$2.50 per trap for the permit, and the permit shall be for the same duration and shall be renewed at the same time as the commercial crabbing license.

~~(B) No crab trap permit may be sold or transferred to another person except as provided in this subparagraph. Such a permit may be transferred along with the transfer of the licensed commercial crabber's nontrawler license to a replacement vessel if the transfer of the permit and the license is registered with the department. Such a permit may be transferred to the purchaser of a commercial crab boat along with the commercial crabber's license and the commercial crabber's nontrawler license if the transfer of the permit, the commercial crabber's license, and the commercial crabber's nontrawler license are recorded with the department and a new permit fee is paid to the department.~~

~~(C)~~(B) No crab trap permit may be amended to permit the use of more traps except at the time of license renewal. The licensee shall have the trap permit in his or her possession at all times while crabbing."

SECTION 18.

Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-4-206, relating to issuance of commercial food shrimp cast netting licenses, as follows:

"27-4-206.

(a) The department may issue no more than 200 commercial food shrimp cast netting licenses as provided in this Code section. Such licenses shall be issued only to individuals and shall not be transferable.

~~(b) The department shall issue commercial food shrimp cast netting licenses for the 1998-1999 license year in order of the date and time the application was received to individuals who:~~

~~(1) Were in possession of a valid 1997-1998 commercial fishing license issued on or before December 12, 1997;~~

~~(2) Were listed as owner or captain of a valid 1997-1998 commercial fishing boat license on the application for which a cast net was indicated as a commercial harvest gear on or before December 12, 1997; and~~

~~(3) Are able to provide evidence satisfactory to the department that they sold shrimp ex-vessel during the 1997-1998 license year on or before December 12, 1997.~~

~~(c)~~(b) If the number of licenses issued pursuant to subsection ~~(b)~~ (a) of this Code section does not total 200, the department may issue the remaining allotment of commercial food shrimp cast netting licenses in the initial or any subsequent license year by lottery devised

699 and operated by the department. After such lottery has been conducted, any remaining
 700 unissued licenses may be issued via a method established by the department.
 701 ~~(d)~~(c) The department shall charge a license fee for the commercial food shrimp cast
 702 netting license in the amount of \$250.00 for a resident commercial food shrimp cast netting
 703 license and \$2,500.00 for a nonresident commercial food shrimp cast netting license.
 704 ~~(e)~~(d) Any license which is not renewed in subsequent license years shall revert to the
 705 department to be issued as provided in subsection ~~(e)~~ (b) of this Code section."

706 **SECTION 19.**

707 Code Section 52-7-5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to numbering of
 708 vessels, requirements, and fees, is amended by revising subsections (d), (e), and (j) as
 709 follows:

710 "(d) Applications shall be signed by the owner or owners of the vessel and shall be
 711 accompanied by the proper fee. Fees for numbering vessels for a registration period of
 712 three years shall be as follows:

713	(1) Vessels up to 16 feet in length	\$15.00 <u>\$25.00</u>
714	(2) Vessels 16 to 26 feet in length	36.00 <u>60.00</u>
715	(3) Vessels 26 to 40 feet in length	90.00 <u>130.00</u>
716	(4) Vessels 40 feet in length or longer	150.00 <u>200.00</u>

717 After July 1, 2017, the General Assembly shall not increase the cost of any fee provided
 718 for in this subsection by more than 20 percent.

719 (e)(1) Registration for vessels shall expire on the last day of the month of the owner's
 720 birth in the last year of the registration period and shall thereafter be of no force or effect
 721 unless renewed pursuant to this article; provided, however, that the registration for
 722 vessels not owned by individuals shall expire on December 31 of the last year of the
 723 registration period. Certificates of number may be renewed by the owner in the same
 724 manner provided for in the initial securing of such certificates.

725 (2) Registrations may be renewed any time after October 1 prior to the year of
 726 expiration. If the certificate of number is allowed to expire, a renewal application may
 727 still be filed with the department so long as the applicant pays the registration fee
 728 prescribed in subsection (d) of this Code section along with a \$10.00 late fee.

729 (3) Any application ~~for renewal~~ which, due to failure of the applicant to provide
 730 additional information required by the department, remains incomplete 60 days after
 731 initial receipt of such application shall expire, and a new application and registration fee
 732 shall be required ~~for renewal~~."

733 "(j) The owner shall furnish the department ~~written~~ notice of the transfer of all or of any
734 part of his or her interest, other than the creation of a security interest, in a vessel numbered
735 in this state pursuant to this Code section, the theft or recovery of the vessel, or the
736 destruction or abandonment of the vessel within 15 days thereof, in a manner specified by
737 the department."

738 **SECTION 20.**

739 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2017, and shall apply to all offenses occurring on
740 or after such date.

741 **SECTION 21.**

742 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.