

ASSEMBLY, No. 3722

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Prohibits DEP from charging fee for resident mobile sportfishing vehicle permit to veterans, active military members, former or current members of the NJ National Guard or Reserve, or volunteer emergency workers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/1/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning fees for mobile sportfishing vehicle permits
2 issued to residents of New Jersey who are veterans, active
3 military members, former or current members of the New Jersey
4 National Guard or Reserve, or volunteer emergency workers, and
5 supplementing P.L.1983, c.324 (C.13:1L-1 et seq.).
6

7 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
8 of New Jersey:
9

10 1. a. (1) The department shall not charge a fee for a mobile
11 sportfishing vehicle permit, when issued to a resident of New Jersey
12 who is a veteran, active duty member of the Armed Forces of the
13 United States, former or current member of the New Jersey
14 National Guard or Reserve, or volunteer emergency worker, for a
15 vehicle registered in the name of the veteran; provided, however, no
16 such person shall be eligible to hold more than one free mobile
17 sportfishing vehicle permit at any given time.

18 (2) The department shall adopt, pursuant to the “Administrative
19 Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and
20 regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this act,
21 including but not limited to, rules and regulations prescribing the
22 types of evidence that may be used to demonstrate a person is
23 eligible for the benefits of paragraph (1) of this subsection.

24 b. Except as otherwise provided in subsection a. of this section,
25 a resident of New Jersey who is a veteran, active duty member of
26 the Armed Forces of the United States, former or current member of
27 the New Jersey National Guard or Reserve, or volunteer emergency
28 worker who applies for a mobile sportfishing vehicle permit shall
29 be subject to the same laws, rules, and regulations applicable to
30 other applicants for the issuance of a mobile sportfishing vehicle
31 permit.

32 c. As used in this section:

33 “Emergency service organization” means a fire or first aid
34 organization, whether organized as a volunteer or part-paid fire
35 company, fire department, or fire district, or duly incorporated
36 volunteer first aid and emergency or volunteer ambulance or rescue
37 squad association.

38 “Mobile sportfishing vehicle permit” means a permit of any type,
39 class, or duration which is made available by the department to
40 allow for the operation of a motor vehicle on a beach for the
41 purpose of fishing.

42 “Veteran” means a person who has been honorably discharged or
43 released under honorable circumstances from active service in any
44 branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, or any honorably
45 discharged member of the American Merchant Marine who served
46 during World War II and is declared by the United States
47 Department of Defense to be eligible for federal veterans’ benefits.

1 “Volunteer emergency worker” means an unpaid volunteer who
2 serves on an active basis as a member of an emergency service
3 organization.

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5 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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8 STATEMENT

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10 This bill would prohibit the Department of Environmental
11 Protection from charging any fees to a New Jersey resident who is a
12 veteran, active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United
13 States, former or current member of the New Jersey National Guard
14 or Reserve, or volunteer emergency worker when issuing a mobile
15 sportfishing vehicle permit to that person.

16 The department currently issues and charges fees for mobile
17 sportfishing vehicle permits, which allow for the operation of motor
18 vehicles on fishing beaches at certain State parks, subject to various
19 safety requirements and other rules and regulations. This bill would
20 prohibit the department from charging a fee for these permits, or
21 any other permits that allow for the operation of a vehicle on a
22 beach for purposes of fishing, when the permits are issued to a New
23 Jersey resident who is a veteran, active duty member of the Armed
24 Forces of the United States, former or current member of the New
25 Jersey National Guard or Reserve, or volunteer emergency worker.

26 Under the bill, a “volunteer emergency worker” is defined to
27 mean an unpaid volunteer who serves on an active basis as a
28 member of an emergency service organization. “Emergency service
29 organization” is defined in the bill to mean a fire or first aid
30 organization, whether organized as a volunteer or part-paid fire
31 company, fire department, or fire district, or duly incorporated
32 volunteer first aid and emergency or volunteer ambulance or rescue
33 squad association.

34 A New Jersey resident who is a veteran, active duty member of
35 the Armed Forces of the United States, former or current member of
36 the New Jersey National Guard or Reserve, or volunteer emergency
37 worker would be eligible to hold only one free mobile sportfishing
38 vehicle permit at any given time and would still remain subject to
39 all other laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the issuance of
40 mobile sportfishing vehicle permits. The department would be
41 required to adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement the
42 provisions of the bill, including but not limited to, rules and
43 regulations prescribing the types of evidence to be used to
44 demonstrate a person is eligible for a free mobile sportsfishing
45 vehicle permit under the provisions of the bill.

46 The State of Delaware provides a similar free mobile
47 sportfishing vehicle permit to volunteer emergency workers.