

By: VanDeaver

H.B. No. 1117

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an exemption to the fishing license requirement for certain residents engaged in fishing in public waters.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 46.002(a), Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A license issued under this chapter is not required of a person:

(1) who is a resident and whose birth date is before January 1, 1931;

(2) who is a nonresident, if the person's birth date is before September 1, 1930, and the person's state of residence grants a similar age exemption to Texas residents;

(3) with a mental illness or developmental or intellectual disability who is engaged in recreational fishing as part of medically approved therapy under the immediate supervision of personnel approved or employed by a hospital, residence, or school for persons with mental illnesses or developmental or intellectual disabilities;

(4) with a mental illness or developmental or intellectual disability who is engaged in recreational fishing under the immediate supervision of a person who:

(A) holds a license issued under this chapter;
and

1 (B) if not a member of the family of the person
2 with a mental illness or developmental or intellectual disability,
3 has the permission of the family head or legal guardian of the
4 person with a mental illness or developmental or intellectual
5 disability to take the person with a mental illness or
6 developmental or intellectual disability fishing;

7 (5) who is participating in an event that is sponsored
8 or co-sponsored by the department with the approval of the
9 director; ~~or~~

10 (6) who is a resident and who is a veteran of the
11 United States armed forces, if the person is acting under Section
12 [11.208](#) and complying with rules adopted under that section; or

13 (7) who is a resident 70 years of age or older and who
14 is engaged in fishing in the public water of this state.

15 SECTION 2. The Parks and Wildlife Department is not
16 required to issue a refund to a person described by Section
17 [46.002\(a\)\(7\)](#), Parks and Wildlife Code, as added by this Act, for a
18 fishing license, stamp, or package issued to the person before the
19 effective date of this Act.

20 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.