

By: Farabee

H.B. No. 687

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the application of the general fishing license requirement to residents 65 years of age or older.

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 65 years of age or older [~~and whose birth date is before September 1, 1930~~];

(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) who is mentally disabled and who is engaging in recreational fishing as part of medically approved therapy, and who is fishing under the immediate supervision of personnel approved or employed by a hospital, residence, or school for mentally disabled persons;

(4) who is mentally retarded and is engaged in recreational fishing under the immediate supervision of a person who:

(A) holds a license issued under this chapter;

and

(B) has the permission of the mentally retarded

1 person's family head or legal guardian to take the mentally
2 retarded person fishing if the person is not a member of the family
3 of the mentally retarded person; or

4 (5) who is participating in an event that is sponsored
5 or co-sponsored by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department with the
6 approval of the Executive Director.

7 SECTION 2. Section 46.004(b), Parks and Wildlife Code, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 (b) The commission may establish a lower fee or waive the
10 fee or license requirement for:

11 (1) a resident who has a general commercial
12 fisherman's license of this state;

13 (2) a resident who is blind as defined by Section
14 94.001, Human Resources Code;

15 (3) a resident or nonresident who is under 17 years
16 old; or

17 (4) a [~~resident or~~] nonresident who is 65 years of age
18 or older [~~old or over~~].

19 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
20 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
23 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.