



HOUSE BILL 1019: Fallen Wildlife Officers Memorial License.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	August 6, 2018
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Kyle Evans
Analysis of:	S.L. 2018-82		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *S.L. 2018-82 creates the Fallen Wildlife Officers Memorial Lifetime Sportsman License, which provides a lifetime sportsman license free of charge to a surviving spouse, child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of a wildlife enforcement officer killed in the line of duty.*

This act has various effective dates. Please see the full summary for more detail.

CURRENT LAW: Sportsman licenses entitle the licensee to statewide hunting and inland fishing. This includes hunting for big game, hunting on game lands, hunting for waterfowl, fishing in public mountain trout waters, fishing in trout waters on game lands, and fishing in joint waters. It does not include fishing in coastal waters.¹ Sportsman licenses may be purchased on an annual basis for residents of North Carolina, or for the lifetime of the licensee for residents and nonresidents.

BILL ANALYSIS: S.L. 2018-82 creates the Fallen Wildlife Officers Memorial Lifetime Sportsman License, also known as the John Oliver Edwards Memorial Lifetime Sportsman License. This license is issued free of charge to a surviving spouse, child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of a wildlife enforcement officer killed in the line of duty. Each applicant seeking to be issued a Fallen Wildlife Officers Memorial Lifetime Sportsman License must provide proof of relationship to the fallen wildlife officer. On top of entitling the licensee to statewide hunting and inland fishing, the license allows a nonresident licensee to avoid having to purchase a nonresident bear hunting license, and allows resident and nonresident licensees to receive bear management stamps at no cost. The act also directs the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) to adopt rules to implement these changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The licensing changes become effective July 1, 2019. The remainder of the act, directing the WRC to adopt rules, became effective June 15, 2018.

BACKGROUND: Since 1930, eleven wildlife enforcement officers have fallen in the line of duty. John Oliver Edwards lost his life in the line of duty on August 3, 1963. This license is named in his memory.

Nicholas Giddings, Staff Attorney, contributed substantially to this summary.

¹ G.S. 113-270.1D.

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