



HOUSE BILL 834: Sportsman's Voter Act.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Election Law. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	May 13, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Almond, N. Jackson, Huneycutt	Prepared by:	William Brewer, Hillary Woodard, and Erika Churchill, Staff Attorneys
Analysis of:	First Edition		

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 834 would require that individuals applying for any license issued by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission be given the opportunity to register to vote and be given the opportunity to participate in the organ donor registry when applying for that license.*

CURRENT LAW: The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (Commission) is authorized to issue licenses to individuals wishing to hunt, fish, trap, boat, and engage in other activities under the jurisdiction of the Commission. The Commission may issue these licenses itself or through a license agent appointed by the Commission to sell certain licenses and permits or a contracted licensing system vendor.

One must have the wildlife license to engage in hunting, fishing, and trapping, but it is not necessary to be a resident of North Carolina to obtain a wildlife license, unless one is seeking the Sportsman License. The Commission has rule making authority with respect to licensure, including requiring individuals subject to a license requirement to carry, display, or produce identification that may be necessary to substantiate that the individual is authorized to possess a particular license or is entitled to an exemption from a license requirement.

In order to register to vote, an individual must be a resident of this State and submit a voter registration application form, as developed by the State Board of Elections. Individuals who are submitting the voter registration application form must also sign an attestation that they meet all of the qualifications to vote. States are required to provide voter registration opportunities at State and local offices that provide public services, including the Division of Motor Vehicles, Division of Services of the Blind, and Division of Social Services. Individuals may also submit voter registration application forms by mail, fax, scan, online, or in person. Once a voter registration application form is completed, the county boards of elections must determine if that individual meets the qualifications to vote, including verification of residence.

The Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles, is required to establish and maintain a statewide, online Organ Donor Registry Internet site (Donor Registry). The purpose of the Donor Registry is to enable federally designated organ procurement organizations and eye banks to be able to determine whether a donor or protective donor has made, amended, or revoked an anatomical gift through a symbol on the donor's or prospective donor's drivers license, special identification card, or other manner.

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BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 834 would require an individual applying for a license under Article 21 of Chapter 113, Licenses and Permits Issued by the Wildlife Commission, be offered the opportunity to register to vote and to participate in the Organ Donor Registry. The Commission would be required to adopt rules for compliance with this after consulting with the State Board of Elections and the Division of Motor Vehicles.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective July 1, 2025, and applies to licenses issued under Chapter 113 of the General Statutes on or after that date.

BACKGROUND: At this time, the Commission has exercised its authority with respect naming license agents to provide include Wal-Mart, Dicks Sporting Goods, grocery stores, and other local businesses as license agents.