

April 4, 2005

**H 1092. AMEND FISHING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS. TO PROVIDE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COASTAL RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE, TO PROVIDE A SYSTEM OF UNIFIED LICENSES UNDER WHICH INDIVIDUALS MAY FISH THROUGHOUT THE STATE, AND TO AMEND CERTAIN STATUTES RELATED TO THE WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION.** Amends Article 14B of GS Chapter 113 relating to Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses (for coastal and joint waters) to provide that annual licenses are \$15 for residents and \$30 for nonresidents, and 10-day licenses are \$5 for residents and \$10 for nonresidents. Lifetime licenses and for-hire blanket licenses are available as well. License requirements apply to shellfish and finfish. Exempt from license requirement are children under 17 years old, holders of certain lifetime licenses acquired before 2005, and certain disabled individuals.

Amends Article 14C of GS Chapter 113 (NC Saltwater Fishing Fund) to abolish board of trustees and convert the Fund into a Marine Resources Fund and a Marine Resources Endowment Fund, to which the license fees will be credited. Directs the Joint Legislative Commission on Seafood and Aquaculture and the Environmental Review Commission to jointly study how and by what entity monies should be disbursed from the two funds, and to report to the 2006 legislative session. Provides for five annual transfers of \$600,000 each from the Wildlife Endowment Fund to the Marine Resources Endowment Fund, effective March 1, 2006.

Amends Articles 21 and 22 of GS Chapter 113 to: (1) reorganize and simplify the authority of the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) to regulate license agents, (2) clarify that inland fishing licenses do not extend to non-joint coastal waters, (3) increase the replacement fee from \$2 to \$5, effective January 1, 2006, (4) repeal the home county/natural bait exemption, effective March 1, 2006, (5) prohibit disclosure of license applicants' personal information, and (6) make clarifying and technical changes.

Enacts new Article 25A of GS Chapter 113 to establish unified fishing licenses for hunting and for fishing in coastal, joint, and inland waters. Prohibits WRC from disclosing applicants' personal information and allows disclosure of information about commercial license applicants.

Enacts new GS 150B-1(e)(15) to exempt WRC from contested case provisions regarding authorizing or terminating a license agent, effective January 1, 2006. Licensing changes effective March 1, 2006.

**Intro. by Gibson, McComas.**

Ref. to Environment

GS 113, 143B, 150B, APPROP, STUDY

April 11, 2005

**H 1092. AMEND FISHING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS.** Intro. 4/4/05. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Modifies "grandfather" exemption from coastal recreational fishing license requirements for holders of Lifetime Combination Hunting and Fishing License for Disabled Residents or Disabled Resident Sportsman License, by changing cut-off purchase date from March 1, 2006, to January 1, 2005. Provides that Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) may disburse up to \$1 million from the Wildlife Resources Fund to implement the act, with the amount disbursed to be reimbursed from the Marine Resources Fund to the Wildlife Resources Fund on July 1, 2010. Clarifies that repeal of statutory authority of WRC to issue a type of license does not affect authority of individual to whom a license of that type was issued before the effective date of the repeal to engage in activity that the repealed license authorizes.