

News Release

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New legislation provides vital records to veterans at no cost, hunting licenses at reduced cost

RICHMOND—Two pieces of legislation passed unanimously by the 2011 General Assembly and signed into law by Governor McDonnell will provide veterans with copies of vital records at no cost and hunting licenses at a reduced cost.

Vital records at no cost

Veterans and their survivors may receive a certified copy of vital records, such as birth, death, and marriage certificates, from the Virginia Department of Health, Division of Vital Records at no charge if the records will be used to obtain military service-connected benefits. The legislation was patroned by Delegate Massie and Senator Northam. To obtain more information, veterans or their survivors should contact the Division of Vital Records at (804) 662-6200.

Hunting licenses for disabled veterans at a discounted cost

Beginning July 1, discounted hunting licenses will be available to disabled veterans. Resident veterans rated by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having a 70 percent service-connected disability may purchase an annual state resident basic hunting license at half price. Veterans with a 70 percent service-connected disability residing out of state may purchase an annual non-resident basic hunting license at half price. The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries already offers a lifetime hunting and fishing license and a life-time trapping license to disabled veterans at a reduced cost. The new law was sponsored by Delegate Armstrong. An application for the license is available on the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' website at www.dgif.virginia.gov.

Although not part of the legislative package, earlier this year Governor McDonnell granted veterans free access to all state parks through the end of 2011.

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