



2011 SENATE BILL 513

February 24, 2012 – Introduced by Senators HOLPERIN, HANSEN and S. COGGS, cosponsored by Representatives TURNER, BEWLEY, BERCEAU, SPANBAUER, VRUWINK, JORGENSEN, STEINEKE, BIES and BROOKS. Referred to Committee on Economic Development and Veterans and Military Affairs.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 29.563 (13) (b); and *to create* 29.193 (2m) and 29.563 (4) (a)
2 3m. of the statutes; **relating to:** issuance of conservation patron licenses to
3 certain disabled veterans.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issues various hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses, permits, and tags (approvals). DNR also issues certain combination licenses, including resident and nonresident conservation patron licenses. A conservation patron license confers upon the licensee the combined privileges of certain approvals, including a small game hunting license, a deer hunting license, an archer hunting license, and an annual fishing license. A conservation patron license also confers certain other privileges, including the authority to take a motor vehicle into state parks and certain other areas without a vehicle admission receipt.

This bill requires that a veteran who is a state resident be issued a conservation patron license at a lower fee than the regular license fee if he or she produces evidence showing that he or she has a service-connected disability rating of 70 percent or greater, as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), or is receiving disability benefits from the VA due to being unemployable based on his or her education and skills as well as his or her medical condition. Under current law, a resident veteran who produces this evidence is eligible for an annual fishing license at a reduced fee. The bill also requires that the license be issued at the time the veteran applies.

