

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Sanders and others

Subject: Preference for Wounded and Disabled Veterans for Fish and Game Permits

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Section

1 **Preference to service members.** Amends § 97A.465, subd. 5. Adds veterans who have received a purple heart or that have a service-connected disability rated at 70 percent or more to the service member and veteran preference used by the Department of Natural Resources when selecting individuals through lotteries for fish and game permits and licenses.

Currently the preference is for those who are either currently serving in the U.S. armed forces (including the National Guard), or those who have served during the past 24 months.

The preference is used when selecting individuals for certain turkey, bear, antlerless deer, and special hunt permits.

The bill would also require the commissioner to give preference to the service members and veterans. The commissioner is currently allowed to, but not required to do so.