

1 Whereas, Section 5 of Article XIV of the North Carolina Constitution also declares it
2 to be the proper function of the State to preserve as a part of the common heritage of this State
3 its forests, wetlands, estuaries, beaches, historical sites, open lands, and places of beauty; and

4 Whereas, G.S. 143B-135.42 provides that the State of North Carolina offers unique
5 archaeological, geological, biological, scenic, and recreational resources and finds that these
6 resources are part of the heritage of the people of this State and should be preserved and managed
7 by the people for their use and for the use of their visitors and descendants; and

8 Whereas, the Wildlife Enforcement Officers of the Wildlife Resources Commission
9 are dedicated public servants and work tirelessly to uphold these provisions of the State's
10 Constitution and General Statutes, fulfill their duties to preserve our State's spectacular natural
11 resources, and assure the safety of the State's citizenry in enjoying these resources; and

12 Whereas, the origins of the Wildlife Resource Commission may be traced to 1947,
13 when the General Assembly established the agency to conserve and sustain the State's wildlife
14 and inland fish resources; and

15 Whereas, the Wildlife Enforcement Officers of the Wildlife Resources Commission
16 have responsibility for enforcement of the inland fishing, hunting, trapping, and boating laws
17 throughout the State; and

18 Whereas, many Wildlife Enforcement Officers have been injured in the line of duty,
19 and eleven Wildlife Enforcement Officers have lost their lives in the line of duty; and

20 Whereas, it is fitting to honor and commend the exemplary group of men and women
21 who have served and continue to serve our State and nation and routinely endure dangerous and
22 difficult conditions in the performance of their duties and those that have been injured and lost
23 in the line of duty through service to their State and nation; Now, therefore,

24 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

25 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 113-270.1D reads as rewritten:

26 **"§ 113-270.1D. Sportsman licenses.**

27 (a) Annual Sportsman License – \$50.00. This license shall be issued only to an individual
28 resident of the State and entitles the licensee to take all wild animals and wild birds, including
29 waterfowl, by all lawful methods in all open seasons, including the use of game lands, and to fish
30 with hook and line for all fish in all inland and joint fishing waters, including public mountain
31 trout waters. An annual sportsman license issued under this subsection does not entitle the
32 licensee to engage in recreational fishing in coastal fishing waters that are not joint fishing waters.

33 (b) Lifetime Sportsman Licenses. Except as provided in subdivision (7) of this
34 subsection, lifetime sportsman licenses are valid for the lifetime of the licensees. Lifetime
35 sportsman licenses entitle the licensees to take all wild animals and wild birds by all lawful
36 methods in all open seasons, including the use of game lands, and to fish with hook and line for
37 all fish in all inland and joint fishing waters, including public mountain trout waters. A lifetime
38 sportsman license issued under this subsection does not entitle the licensee to engage in
39 recreational fishing in coastal fishing waters that are not joint fishing waters. Lifetime sportsman
40 licenses issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission are:

41 (1) Infant Lifetime Sportsman License – \$200.00. This license shall be issued
42 only to an individual under one year of age.

43 (2) Youth Lifetime Sportsman License – \$350.00. This license shall be issued
44 only to an individual under 12 years of age.

45 (3) Adult Resident Lifetime Sportsman License – \$500.00. This license shall be
46 issued only to an individual resident of the State who is 12 years of age or
47 older but younger than 70 years of age.

48 (4) Nonresident Lifetime Sportsman License – \$1,200. This license shall be
49 issued only to an individual nonresident of the State.

- 1 (5) Age 70 Resident Lifetime Sportsman License – \$15.00. This license shall be
2 issued only to an individual resident of the State who is at least 70 years of
3 age.
- 4 (6) Repealed by Session Laws 2005-455, s. 1.7 effective January 1, 2007.
- 5 (7) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Sportsman License – \$100.00. This
6 license shall be issued only to an individual who is a resident of the State and
7 who is a fifty percent (50%) or more disabled veteran as determined by the
8 United States Department of Veterans Affairs or as established by rules of the
9 Wildlife Resources Commission. This license remains valid for the lifetime
10 of the licensee so long as the licensee remains fifty percent (50%) or more
11 disabled.
- 12 (8) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Sportsman License – \$100.00. This
13 license shall be issued only to an individual who is a resident of the State and
14 who is totally and permanently disabled as determined by the Social Security
15 Administration or as established by rules of the Wildlife Resources
16 Commission.
- 17 (9) Fallen Wildlife Officers Memorial Lifetime Sportsman License. – This license
18 shall also be known as the John Oliver Edwards Memorial Lifetime Sportsman
19 License and shall be issued free of charge only to a surviving spouse, child,
20 grandchild, or great-grandchild of a wildlife enforcement officer killed in the
21 line of duty."

22 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 113-270.3 reads as rewritten:

23 **"§ 113-270.3. Special activity licenses; big game kill reports.**

- 24 (a) In addition to any hunting, trapping, or fishing license that may be required pursuant
25 to G.S. 113-270.1B(a), individuals engaging in specially regulated activities must have the
26 appropriate special activity license and stamp prescribed in this section before engaging in the
27 regulated activity.
- 28 (b) The special activity licenses and stamp issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission
29 are as follows:
- 30 (1) Resident Big Game Hunting License – \$13.00. This license shall be issued
31 only to an individual resident of the State and entitles the holder to take big
32 game by all lawful methods and during all open seasons.
- 33 (1a) Nonresident Bear Hunting License – \$225.00. This license is valid for use
34 only by an individual within the State and must be procured before taking any
35 bear within the State. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a
36 nonresident individual may not take any bear within the State without
37 procuring this license; provided, that neither those persons who have a
38 nonresident lifetime sportsman combination license purchased prior to May
39 24, 1994, nor those persons who have obtained a lifetime license established
40 by G.S. 113-270.1D(b)(9) shall ~~not~~ have to purchase this license.
- 41 (1b) Bear Management Stamp – \$10.00. This electronically generated stamp must
42 be procured before taking any bear within the State. Notwithstanding any
43 other provision of law, a resident or nonresident individual may not take any
44 bear within the State without procuring this stamp; provided, that those
45 persons who have purchased a lifetime license established by
46 G.S. 113-270.1D(b), 113-270.2(c)(2), or 113-351(c)(3) prior to July 1, 2014,
47 those persons who have obtained a lifetime license established by
48 G.S. 113-270.1D(b)(9), and those persons exempt from the license
49 requirements as set forth in G.S. 113-276(c), G.S. 113-276(d), and
50 G.S. 113-276(n) shall obtain this stamp free of charge. All of the revenue

- 1 generated by this stamp shall be dedicated to black bear research and
2 management.
- 3 (2) Nonresident Big Game Hunting License. This license shall be issued only to
4 an individual nonresident of the State and entitles the holder to take big game
5 by all lawful methods and during all open seasons. The nonresident big game
6 hunting licenses issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission are:
- 7 a. Season License – \$80.00.
8 b. Ten-Day License – \$60.00. This license is only valid for the 10
9 consecutive dates indicated on the license.
- 10 (2a) Bonus Antlerless Deer License – \$10.00. This license shall be issued to an
11 individual resident or nonresident of the State who holds a valid North
12 Carolina big game hunting license or an individual resident who is exempt
13 from the hunting license requirement in accordance with G.S. 113-276(c) and
14 G.S. 113-276(d) and entitles the holder to take two antlerless deer during
15 seasons and by methods authorized by the Wildlife Resources Commission.
16 This license expires June 30.
- 17 (3) Game Land License – \$15.00. This license shall be issued to an individual
18 resident or nonresident of the State and entitles the holder to hunt and trap on
19 game lands managed by the Wildlife Resources Commission. The Wildlife
20 Resources Commission may, pursuant to G.S. 113-264(a), designate in its
21 rules other activities on game lands that require purchase of this license and
22 may charge additional fees for use of specially developed facilities.
- 23 (4) Falconry License – \$10.00. This license shall be issued to an individual
24 resident or nonresident of the State and must be procured before:
- 25 a. Taking, importing, transporting, or possessing a raptor; or
26 b. Taking wildlife by means of falconry.
- 27 The Wildlife Resources Commission may issue classes of falconry licenses
28 necessary to participate in the federal/State permit system, require necessary
29 examinations before issuing licenses or permits to engage in various
30 authorized activities related to possession and maintenance of raptors and the
31 sport of falconry, and regulate licenses as required by governing federal law
32 and rules. To defray the costs of administering required examinations, the
33 Wildlife Resources Commission may charge reasonable fees upon giving
34 them. To meet minimum federal standards plus other State standards in the
35 interests of conservation of wildlife resources, the Wildlife Resources
36 Commission may impose all necessary controls, including those set out in the
37 sections pertaining to collection licenses and captivity licenses, and may issue
38 permits and require reports, but no collection license or captivity license is
39 needed in addition to the falconry license.
- 40 (5) Migratory Waterfowl Hunting License – \$13.00. This license shall be issued
41 to an individual resident or nonresident of the State and entitles the holder to
42 take migratory waterfowl in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
43 The Wildlife Resources Commission may implement this license requirement
44 through the sale of an official waterfowl stamp which may be a facsimile, in
45 an appropriate size, of the waterfowl conservation print authorized by
46 G.S. 113-270.2B. An amount not less than one-half of the annual proceeds
47 from the sale of this license shall be used by the Commission for cooperative
48 waterfowl habitat improvement projects through contracts with local
49 waterfowl interests, with the remainder of the proceeds to be used by the
50 Commission in its statewide programs for the conservation of waterfowl.

1 (c) Any individual who kills any species of big game must report the kill to the Wildlife
2 Resources Commission. The Commission may by rule prescribe the method of making the report,
3 prescribe its contents, and require positive identification of the carcass of the kill, by tagging or
4 otherwise. The Wildlife Resources Commission may administratively provide for the annual
5 issuance of big game tags or other identification for big game authorized by this section to holders
6 of lifetime sportsman licenses and lifetime comprehensive hunting licenses.

7 (d) Any individual who possesses any of the lifetime sportsman licenses established by
8 G.S. 113-270.1D(b) may engage in specially regulated activities without the licenses required by
9 subdivisions (1), (2), (3), and (5) of subsection (b) of this section. Any individual possessing an
10 annual sportsman license established by G.S. 113-270.1D(a) or a lifetime or annual
11 comprehensive hunting license established by G.S.113-270.2(c)(2) or (5) may engage in
12 specially regulated activities without the licenses required by subdivisions (1), (3), and (5) of
13 subsection (b) of this section.

14 (e) When the Wildlife Resources Commission establishes a primitive weapons season
15 pursuant to G.S. 113-291.2(a), all of the combination hunting and fishing licenses established in
16 G.S.113-270.1C, sportsman licenses established in G.S. 113-270.1D, and hunting licenses
17 established in G.S. 113-270.2(c)(1), (2), (3), (5), and (6) entitle the holder to participate. For
18 purposes of this section, "primitive weapons" include bow and arrow, muzzle-loading firearm,
19 and any other primitive weapon specified in the rules of the Wildlife Resources Commission."

20 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 113-272.3 reads as rewritten:

21 **"§ 113-272.3. Special provisions respecting fishing licenses; grabbling; taking bait fish; use**
22 **of landing nets; lifetime licenses issued from Wildlife Resources Commission**
23 **headquarters; personalized lifetime sportsman combination licenses.**

24 (a) The Wildlife Resources Commission by rule may define the meaning of "hook and
25 line" and "special device" as applied to fishing techniques. Any technique of fishing that may be
26 lawfully authorized which employs neither the use of any special device nor hook and line must
27 be pursued under the appropriate hook-and-line fishing license.

28 (b) In accordance with established fishing customs and the orderly conservation of
29 wildlife resources, the Wildlife Resources Commission may by rule provide for use of nets or
30 other special devices which it may authorize as an incident to hook-and-line fishing or for
31 procuring bait fish without requiring a special device license. In this instance, however, the
32 individual fishing must meet applicable hook-and-line license requirements.

33 (c) Lifetime licenses are issued from the Wildlife Resources Commission headquarters.
34 Each application for an Infant Lifetime Sportsman or Youth Lifetime Sportsman License must
35 be accompanied by a certified copy of the birth certificate, adoption order containing the date of
36 birth, or other proof of age satisfactory to the Commission, of the individual to be named as the
37 licensee. Each application for a Fallen Wildlife Officers Memorial Lifetime Sportsman License
38 shall be accompanied by proof of relationship to the fallen wildlife officer, satisfactory to the
39 Wildlife Resources Commission, of the individual to be named as the licensee.

40 (d) In issuing lifetime licenses, the Wildlife Resources Commission is authorized to adopt
41 rules to establish a personalized series for certain license types and to charge a five dollar (\$5.00)
42 administrative fee, to be deposited in the Wildlife Fund, to defray the cost of issuance of the
43 personalized license. The fee shall not be assessed for a personalized Fallen Wildlife Officers
44 Memorial Lifetime Sportsman License as enacted under G.S. 113-270.1D(b)(9)."

45 **SECTION 4.** The Wildlife Resources Commission may adopt rules to implement
46 this act.

47 **SECTION 5.** Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) in nonrecurring funds for the
48 2018-2019 fiscal year is appropriated to the Wildlife Resources Commission to design and
49 develop the Fallen Wildlife Officers Memorial Lifetime Sportsman License and to implement
50 the provisions of this act.

51 **SECTION 6.** The provisions of G.S. 143C-5-2 do not apply to this act.

1 **SECTION 7.** Sections 1, 2, and 3 of this act become effective July 1, 2019. The
2 remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.