

CHAPTER 292

MILITARY AND VETERANS

SENATE BILL 10-211

BY SENATOR(S) Morse and Gibbs, Harvey, Bacon, Boyd, Brophy, Foster, Heath, Hodge, Johnston, Kester, King K., Kopp, Lundberg, Mitchell, Penry, Renfro, Romer, Scheffel, Schultheis, Shaffer B., Tapia, Tochtrop, White, Whitehead, Williams, Cadman, Keller, Schwartz, Spence;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Looper and Scanlan, Apuan, Balmer, DelGrosso, Kerr J., Nikkel, Priola, Swalm, Acree, Gerou, Kefalas, Labuda, Lambert, McFadyen, Merrifield, Pace, Roberts, Soper, Vigil.

AN ACT

CONCERNING BIG GAME HUNTING LICENSES FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED SERVICES WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAMS WHO HAVE SUSTAINED SEVERE COMBAT-RELATED INJURIES WHILE SERVING IN POST-SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. 33-4-102, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION to read:

33-4-102. Types of licenses and fees - rules - repeal. (1.9) (a) (I) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS, DETERMINES, AND DECLARES THAT:

(A) SERVICE MEMBERS RETURNING FROM POST-SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS WHO HAVE BEEN INJURED DURING COMBAT FACE A CHALLENGING PERIOD OF REHABILITATION UPON THEIR RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES;

(B) MANY OF THESE SERVICE MEMBERS ARE SO SEVERELY INJURED THAT THEY REQUIRE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR MANY YEARS, OR EVEN THE REST OF THEIR LIVES, AS THEY REENTER MAINSTREAM LIFE;

(C) ALTHOUGH THE SCOPE OF CARE PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES ARMED SERVICES WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAMS VARIES WITH EACH SERVICE MEMBER, BASED ON THE NEEDS OF THE INDIVIDUAL, THESE SERVICE MEMBERS MAY BE ASSIGNED, UPON RETURN TO COLORADO, TO A MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITY SUCH AS EVANS ARMY HOSPITAL AT FORT CARSON, COLORADO;

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

(D) WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAMS ARE DIRECT EFFORTS BY THE UNITED STATES ARMED SERVICES TO CARE FOR SERVICE MEMBERS DURING THEIR LONG TRANSITION FROM COMBAT-RELATED INJURY TO CIVILIAN LIFE AND TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THOSE SERVICE MEMBERS IN RECOVERY, REHABILITATION, AND REINTEGRATION THAT IS WORTHY OF THEIR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE; AND

(E) FOR THOSE WOUNDED WARRIORS WHO SUFFER INJURIES SO SEVERE THAT THEY WILL REQUIRE INTENSE, ONGOING CARE OR ASSISTANCE FOR MANY YEARS OR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES, A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE HEALING PROCESS IS ENABLING AND ENCOURAGING THESE SERVICE MEMBERS TO EXPERIENCE SOME OF THE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES THEY ENJOYED PRIOR TO THEIR SERVICE-RELATED INJURIES.

(II) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEREFORE RECOGNIZES THE NEED TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLORADO'S SEVERELY INJURED "WOUNDED WARRIORS" TO ENJOY THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE STATE AS PART OF THEIR REHABILITATIVE CARE. FURTHERMORE, OFFERING REDUCED-COST OR FREE BIG GAME HUNTING LICENSES TO SUCH RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS IS A SMALL, BUT RECOGNIZABLE, ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THEIR SELFLESS SERVICE AND SACRIFICE.

(b) THE COMMISSION MAY PROMULGATE RULES TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE BIG GAME LICENSE FEES AND ESTABLISH A BIG GAME HUNTING LICENSE PREFERENCE FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED SERVICES WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAMS WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF, OR STATIONED IN, COLORADO AND WHO HAVE BEEN SO SEVERELY INJURED THAT THEY WILL REQUIRE YEARS OF INTENSE, ONGOING CARE OR ASSISTANCE.

(c) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (1.9), "UNITED STATES ARMED SERVICES WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAMS" MEANS:

- (I) THE ARMY WOUNDED WARRIOR (AW2) PROGRAM;
- (II) THE AIR FORCE WOUNDED WARRIOR (AFW2) PROGRAM;
- (III) THE NAVY SAFE HARBOR PROGRAM;
- (IV) THE COAST GUARD WOUNDED WARRIOR REGIMENT; AND

(V) ANY SUCCESSOR PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY A BRANCH OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED SERVICES TO PROVIDE INDIVIDUALIZED SUPPORT FOR SERVICE MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN SEVERELY INJURED IN OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS UNDERTAKEN SINCE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001.

(d) THE COMMISSION MAY ADOPT RULES TO IMPLEMENT THIS SUBSECTION (1.9), INCLUDING RULES DEFINING "SEVERELY INJURED" AND ESTABLISHING RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE MEMBERS ELIGIBLE UNDER THIS SUBSECTION (1.9).

SECTION 2. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: May 26, 2010