

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment offered the following substitute to HB 208:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to game and fish, so  
2 as to revise definitions, license fees, and license requirements; to amend Code Section 52-7-5  
3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to numbering of vessels, requirements,  
4 and fees, so as to revise boat registration fees and allow additional methods for reporting the  
5 sale of boats; to correct cross-references; to provide for related matters; to provide for an  
6 effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

8 Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to game and fish, is amended in  
9 Code Section 27-1-2, relating to definitions relative to game and fish, by revising  
10 paragraph (60) and adding a new paragraph to read as follows:  
11

12 "(60) 'Resident' means any citizen of the United States who has been domiciled within  
13 the State of Georgia for a period of at least three months. For purposes of issuing or  
14 procuring the noncommercial hunting and fishing licenses required by this title, the term  
15 'resident' shall include full-time military personnel on active duty and the dependents of  
16 such military personnel; provided, however, that requirements for residency as defined  
17 in ~~paragraph (5) of subsection (e) of subparagraph (c)(4)(A) of~~ Code Section 27-2-3.1  
18 shall apply to such military personnel and their dependents for all lifetime license types  
19 listed in Code Section 27-2-3.1 that are only available to residents. Requirements for  
20 residency as defined in ~~paragraph (5) of subsection (e) of subparagraph (c)(4)(A) of~~ Code  
21 Section 27-2-3.1 shall also apply to such military personnel and their dependents for all  
22 honorary or discounted license types listed in Code Section 27-2-4 and to the landowner  
23 exemption in subsection (b) of Code Section 27-2-1, provided that the domicile  
24 requirement shall be a period of at least three months."

25 "(63.1) 'Seafood dealer' means any person other than the consumer who purchases, ships,  
 26 consigns, transfers, barter, accepts, maintains, or packs any marine fishery products  
 27 received from commercial seafood harvesters or marine aquaculturists for the first time."

28 **SECTION 2.**

29 Said title is further amended in Code Section 27-2-1, relating to hunting, trapping, or fishing  
 30 without a license or permit, by revising subsection (b) as follows:

31 "(b) It shall be unlawful for any resident of this state who has attained the age of 16 years  
 32 to hunt, fish in the waters of this state, or trap without a valid hunting license, fishing  
 33 license, or trapping license, respectively, as provided in Code Section 27-2-23, except on  
 34 premises owned by him or her or his or her immediate family; provided, however, that the  
 35 resident owner of any vessel with a valid registration in accordance with Code Section  
 36 52-7-5 shall have, as part of the registration fee for such vessel, a paid ~~three-day~~ one-day  
 37 resident hunting and fishing license that begins on valid only on the anniversary of such  
 38 owner's date of birth and extends two consecutive days thereafter in accordance with the  
 39 requirements of this title and as otherwise specified by the department. It shall be unlawful  
 40 for any resident of this state to hunt, fish, or trap in this state without carrying such license  
 41 upon his or her person, except on premises owned by him or her or his or her immediate  
 42 family and except when otherwise specifically directed by authorized personnel of the  
 43 department."

44 **SECTION 3.**

45 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-3, relating to effective periods  
 46 of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses, as follows:

47 "27-2-3.

48 (a) Except as otherwise specifically provided, all hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses,  
 49 including without limitation commercial fishing and commercial fishing boat licenses  
 50 issued pursuant to Code Section 27-2-8, shall be effective from April 1 to March 31 of the  
 51 following year; except that all annual, two-year, or other multiyear hunting, fishing, and  
 52 hunting and fishing combination licenses issued pursuant to paragraphs (1) through (4) of  
 53 Code Section 27-2-23 shall be effective through the applicable one-year, two-year, or  
 54 multiyear anniversary of the date of issuance. If a person possesses a valid annual,  
 55 two-year, or other multiyear hunting, fishing, or hunting and fishing combination license  
 56 at the time of sale of one or more annual, two-year, or other multiyear licenses with  
 57 identical privileges to the valid license, the new license or licenses shall become effective  
 58 when the original license expires and shall remain valid through the full applicable period.

59 The department may specify the effective dates and term of the following licenses or  
 60 permits:

61 (1) The Georgia waterfowl and migratory bird stamp to meet requirements of Code  
 62 Section 27-2-20;

63 (2) The free Georgia salt water fishing endorsement to meet requirements of Code  
 64 Section 27-2-20.1; and

65 (3) Any permit or requirement authorized by Code Section 27-3-29 regarding harvest  
 66 recording and reporting.

67 (b) Multiyear licenses valid for any desired number of years may be purchased through a  
 68 single transaction for licenses listed in paragraphs (1) through (4) of Code Section 27-2-23.  
 69 The fee for any such multiyear license shall be equivalent to the lowest cost combination  
 70 of annual or two-year licenses necessary to form the desired multiyear license period. No  
 71 multiyear resident license shall be valid at the time of hunting or fishing unless the licensee  
 72 is a resident of this state at such time, except for lifetime licenses."

#### 73 **SECTION 4.**

74 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-3.1, relating to hunting and  
 75 sportsman's licenses, as follows:

76 "27-2-3.1.

77 (a) The requirements in this title for procuring any paid license or permit for  
 78 noncommercial hunting and fishing privileges, except for hunting harvesting alligators,  
 79 shall be satisfied by a resident or nonresident who procures a sportsman's license. ~~An~~  
 80 ~~applicant for such license shall, prior to the issuance of the license, complete a screening~~  
 81 ~~questionnaire associated with the federal Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program;~~  
 82 provided, however, that the department may specify other nonpaid licenses and permits  
 83 required by law or by rule or regulation of the board. An applicant for such license shall  
 84 furnish all information required by the department prior to the issuance of such license. An  
 85 applicant for any paid or nonpaid license who is a resident shall certify and provide  
 86 satisfactory evidence of his or her residency as set forth in paragraph (4) of subsection (c)  
 87 of this Code section.

88 (b) All licenses, stamps, or permits for noncommercial hunting and fishing privileges shall  
 89 be attached to or printed on a form provided by the department which shall include the  
 90 applicant's name, address, date of birth, and hunter safety certification number; provided,  
 91 however, that each such item of information may be, but is not required to be, printed on  
 92 lifetime licenses.

93 (c)(1) The requirements in this title for procuring any paid license, stamp, or permit for  
 94 noncommercial hunting and fishing privileges shall be satisfied by a resident or

95 nonresident who procures a lifetime sportsman's license; provided, however, that the  
 96 department may specify other required nonpaid licenses and permits required by law or  
 97 by rule or regulation of the board for such resident or nonresident and that an applicant  
 98 for such license shall furnish all information required by the department prior to the  
 99 issuance of such license; and provided, further, that the requirements in this title for  
 100 procuring any paid license, stamp, or permit for noncommercial hunting or for  
 101 noncommercial fishing privileges, separately, shall be satisfied by a resident or  
 102 nonresident who procures a lifetime sportsman's license for hunting only or for fishing  
 103 only, respectively, as described in subparagraph (d)(1)(E) of this Code section.

104 ~~(2) An applicant for such license who is a resident shall certify and provide satisfactory~~  
 105 ~~evidence of his or her residency as set forth in paragraph (5) of this subsection.~~

106 ~~(3)~~ An applicant for a veteran's lifetime sportsman's license shall, in addition to  
 107 satisfactory evidence of residency, be required to provide satisfactory evidence that he  
 108 or she served more than 90 days of federal active duty military service and was honorably  
 109 discharged.

110 ~~(4)~~(3) An applicant for ~~such a lifetime sportsman's~~ license who is a nonresident shall not  
 111 be eligible for issuance of such license unless:

112 (A) He or she is from two through 15 years of age and is the grandchild of a resident  
 113 who holds a valid paid lifetime sportsman's license (~~not excluding~~ a no-cost Type S  
 114 lifetime license). The resident grandparent who holds such a lifetime sportsman's  
 115 license and who is the sponsor of an eligible nonresident applicant for a lifetime  
 116 sportsman's license shall certify the nonresident applicant's relationship to him or her  
 117 in writing to the department; or

118 (B) He or she is less than two years of age.

119 ~~(5)~~(4)(A) For purposes of procuring a lifetime sportsman's license, the term 'residency'  
 120 means a domicile within Georgia for a minimum of three consecutive months  
 121 immediately prior to procuring such license. Satisfactory evidence of residency shall  
 122 consist of a current Georgia driver's license or official Georgia identification card  
 123 issued by the Department of Driver Services; provided, however, that no license or  
 124 identification card issued pursuant to Code Section 40-5-21.1 shall satisfy the  
 125 requirements of this paragraph.

126 (B) Minors under 18 years of age shall be presumed to be residents upon proof of  
 127 parent's resident status as provided for in this Code section. For purposes of procuring  
 128 the Type I (Infant) and Type Y (Youth) lifetime license, a copy of a certified copy of  
 129 the birth certificate of the licensee shall be required to show age (Types I and Y) and  
 130 parentage (Type Y). A court order or other legal document establishing parental rights  
 131 or legal custody may be provided to show parentage.

- 132 (d)(1) Lifetime sportsman's licenses and fees for residents shall be as follows:
- 133 (A) Type I (Infant), available only to those individuals under two years of age: ~~\$200.00~~
- 134 \$500.00;
- 135 (B) Type Y (Youth), available only to those individuals from two through 15 years of
- 136 age: ~~\$350.00~~ \$600.00;
- 137 (C) Type A (Adult), available to those individuals 16 years to 49 years of age ~~or older~~:
- 138 ~~\$500.00~~ \$750.00;
- 139 (C.1) Type OA (Older Adult), available to those individuals 50 years to 59 years of
- 140 age: \$375.00;
- 141 (D) Type SD (Senior Discount), available to those individuals 60 years to 64 years of
- 142 age ~~or older~~: ~~\$95.00~~ \$315.00;
- 143 (E) Type S (Senior), available to those individuals 65 years of age or older born on or
- 144 before June 30, 1952: no charge;. The lifetime sportsman's licenses and fees available
- 145 to those individuals 65 years of age and older born after June 30, 1952, shall be as
- 146 follows:
- 147 (i) Type SP (Senior Paid): \$70.00;
- 148 (ii) Type SH (Senior Hunt), for hunting only: \$35.00; and
- 149 (iii) Type SF (Senior Fish), for fishing only: \$35.00;
- 150 (F) Type V (Veterans), available only to those individuals who served more than 90
- 151 days of federal active duty military service and were honorably discharged: 80 percent
- 152 of the amount of the fee specified for Type A lifetime sportsman's licenses in
- 153 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph; ~~and~~
- 154 (G) Type M (Military), available only to those residents currently in active military
- 155 service and who are in possession of a valid United States Department of Defense
- 156 Common Access Card with a Uniformed Services affiliation. As used in this
- 157 subsection, the term 'active military service' means service on active duty with the
- 158 armed forces of the United States or service with a reserve component of the armed
- 159 forces of the United States, including service in the Georgia National Guard or National
- 160 Guard of another state: 80 percent of the amount of the fee specified for Type A
- 161 lifetime sportsman's licenses in subparagraph (C) of this paragraph; and
- 162 ~~(G)~~(H) Type SP (Shooting Preserve), available to any individual, resident or
- 163 nonresident, and which entitles the holder to hunt pen raised game birds and fish in any
- 164 private or state waters within the boundaries of a properly licensed shooting preserve:
- 165 \$75.00.
- 166 (2) The fee for any lifetime sportsman's license for a nonresident, Type NR, shall be
- 167 twice the amount of the fee for a Type A (Adult) lifetime sportsman's license for a

168 resident, except that the fee for a nonresident Type I (Infant) license shall be the same fee  
169 as for a resident Type I (Infant) license.

170 (3) After July 1, 2017, the General Assembly shall not increase the cost of any license  
171 provided for in this subsection by more than 20 percent.

172 (e) Lifetime sportsman's licenses shall be valid for the lifetime of the purchaser, whether  
173 resident or nonresident. Change of residency to another state shall not affect the validity  
174 of the lifetime license when hunting or fishing in Georgia.

175 (f) The commissioner shall revoke the lifetime sportsman's license of any person who  
176 knowingly attempts to or does purchase, obtain, or assist another person to obtain a lifetime  
177 sportsman's license by fraudulent means, without refund of any fees paid.

178 (g) Upon payment of a replacement fee of up to ~~\$10.00~~ \$15.00, any durable plastic card  
179 showing a lifetime sportsman's license or other valid license may be replaced if lost, stolen,  
180 or destroyed, provided that the applicant's name and lifetime license number or other  
181 required license information are in the records of the department.

182 (h) Once a lifetime license is issued, no refunds of fees will be made except in the case of  
183 the death before age 16 years of a Type I (Infant) lifetime license holder or a Type Y  
184 (Youth) license holder, in which case a full refund of fees collected may be made upon  
185 submission of the lifetime license and any other documentation required by the department.

186 (i) The requirements in this title for procuring any paid license, stamp, or permit for  
187 noncommercial hunting and fishing privileges shall be satisfied by a resident youth  
188 younger than 16 years of age who procures an optional annual or an optional multiyear  
189 resident youth sportsman's license. The requirements in this title for procuring any paid  
190 license, stamp, or permit for noncommercial fishing privileges shall be satisfied by a youth  
191 younger than 16 years of age who procures an optional annual or an optional multiyear  
192 resident youth license for fishing only. A resident youth multiyear fishing license or  
193 resident youth multiyear sportsman's license will be valid from the time of purchase until  
194 such person reaches 17 years of age. The department may require satisfactory evidence to  
195 show age and residency before issuing an annual or youth multiyear license."

196 **SECTION 5.**

197 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-4, relating to honorary licenses,  
198 as follows:

199 "27-2-4.

200 (a) The department shall issue ~~an honorary~~ a discounted hunting and fishing license, which  
201 shall entitle a resident to hunt and fish in this state without the payment of fees described  
202 in Code Section 27-2-23, to each resident who is permanently and totally disabled. For  
203 purposes of this Code section, a permanent, total disability shall be a physical or mental

204 impairment of a total and permanent nature ~~which prevents gainful employment and which~~  
205 is certified as such by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs, the Social Security  
206 Administration, Medicaid, medicare, the Railroad Retirement System, or a unit of federal,  
207 state, or local government recognized by the board by rule or regulation; provided,  
208 however, that persons disabled because of a mental impairment shall be issued ~~an honorary~~  
209 a discounted fishing license only. Persons issued ~~an honorary~~ a discounted license under  
210 disability provisions shall renew such licenses and recertify their eligibility for such  
211 licenses every three years; provided, however, that ~~honorary~~ licenses in effect as of July  
212 1, 1998, shall not require renewal. The fee for a discounted three-year license issued  
213 pursuant to this subsection shall be \$9.00 for hunting or fishing only and \$15.00 for hunting  
214 and fishing combined. The fee for a discounted annual license issued pursuant to this  
215 subsection shall be \$3.00 for hunting or fishing only and \$5.00 for hunting and fishing  
216 combined.

217 (b) Any resident who is totally blind and who applies to the department shall receive a  
218 lifetime honorary fishing license which shall entitle the holder thereof to fish in this state  
219 without the payment of any fee whatsoever.

220 (c) Any person holding a valid honorary or discounted license pursuant to this Code  
221 section shall not be required to obtain the trout license and big game license otherwise  
222 required by Code Section 27-2-6.

223 (d) All honorary and discounted hunting and fishing licenses are subject to all wildlife  
224 laws, rules, and regulations with the exception of the provisions requiring the payment of  
225 fees described in Code Section 27-2-23 for such licenses. Such honorary and discounted  
226 licenses may be revoked in accordance with this title. It shall be unlawful for any person  
227 who has an honorary or discounted hunting and fishing license to permit the use of same  
228 by any other person. It shall also be unlawful for any person who is not entitled to ~~an~~  
229 ~~honorary~~ a discounted hunting and fishing license to use such a license or for any totally  
230 and permanently disabled person issued such a license to possess or use such license when  
231 the disability is no longer total or permanent. Licenses for the totally and permanently  
232 disabled may, upon a determination that the disability is no longer total or permanent, be  
233 revoked until such time as the disability is again total and permanent.

234 (e) The commissioner is authorized to make and enter into agreements from time to time  
235 with the proper authorities of various states of the United States regarding nonresident  
236 hunting and fishing license fees for persons 65 years of age or older so as to provide  
237 ~~honorary~~ discounted hunting and fishing licenses to be issued ~~without charge~~ to  
238 nonresidents 65 years of age or older where such practice is reciprocated for Georgia  
239 residents in that person's state of residence.

240 (f) Persons holding lifetime honorary licenses issued to persons 65 years of age or older  
 241 prior to April 1, 1999, shall not be required to obtain a lifetime license pursuant to Code  
 242 Section 27-2-3.1, and such lifetime honorary license shall carry the same rights and  
 243 privileges as a lifetime license issued pursuant to that Code section.

244 (g)(1) As used in this subsection, the term 'returning veteran' means a person who is  
 245 discharged from active duty as a member of the regular or reserve component of the  
 246 United States armed forces, the United States Coast Guard, the Georgia National Guard,  
 247 or the Georgia Air National Guard and who was on ordered federal duty for a period of  
 248 90 days or longer.

249 (2) The department shall issue an honorary hunting and fishing license to any returning  
 250 veteran which shall entitle him or her to hunt and fish in this state without the payment  
 251 of fees described in Code Section 27-2-23 for a period of one year following issuance.  
 252 A returning veteran requesting such an honorary license shall provide proof of his or her  
 253 discharge."

#### 254 **SECTION 6.**

255 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-4.2, relating to courtesy  
 256 nonresident fishing licenses for certain veterans, as follows:

257 "27-2-4.2.

258 The department is authorized to issue a courtesy nonresident fishing license, without fee,  
 259 to any person who is not a resident of this state who is a paralyzed or disabled veteran and  
 260 who is participating in an organized fishing tournament in this state which is sponsored and  
 261 conducted by a nonprofit charitable association of paralyzed or disabled veterans, provided  
 262 that such tournament is approved by the department. Such courtesy nonresident license  
 263 shall be valid for use only during the specified dates of such tournament and for a  
 264 maximum of seven days and shall include all requirements and privileges of a nonresident  
 265 fishing license, including the nonresident trout license, for use only in association with such  
 266 tournament."

#### 267 **SECTION 7.**

268 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-5, relating to required hunter  
 269 education courses, as follows:

270 "27-2-5.

271 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person born on or after January 1, 1961, to procure a  
 272 hunting license or to hunt by means of weapons in this state unless that person has been  
 273 issued a certificate or other evidence the department deems acceptable which indicates  
 274 satisfactory completion of a hunter education course as prescribed by the board. Persons



275 ages ~~16~~ 12 through 25 shall provide such certificate or other evidence to the issuing agent  
 276 at the time of purchase of a hunting license. All persons required by this subsection to  
 277 complete a hunter education course, by ~~signing~~ buying such license, by receiving a  
 278 temporary license identification number, or by receiving a license from a telephone license  
 279 agent, Internet license agent, or other vendor, shall certify by such action their compliance  
 280 with this subsection.

281 (b) It shall be unlawful for any person authorized to issue hunting licenses in this state to  
 282 issue a hunting license to any person age 16 through 25 unless that license agent shall have  
 283 been provided with a certificate showing the license applicant has satisfactorily completed  
 284 a hunter education course as prescribed by the board, or to any other person born on or  
 285 after January 1, 1961, unless such person provides such other evidence of completion of  
 286 a hunter education course as the department deems acceptable. Internet and telephone  
 287 license agents may accept a valid hunter education certificate number as fulfillment of this  
 288 requirement.

289 (c) It shall be unlawful for any person age 16 through 25 who is not required by law to  
 290 obtain a hunting license to hunt in this state unless that person carries on his or her person  
 291 while hunting a certificate attesting to that person's satisfactory completion of a hunter  
 292 education course as prescribed by the board. Such person shall present his or her certificate  
 293 to a conservation ranger or deputy conservation ranger for inspection upon demand.

294 (d) Any person who is age 12 through 15 shall satisfactorily complete a hunter education  
 295 course as a prerequisite to hunting with a weapon in this state. It shall be unlawful for any  
 296 adult to permit his or her child or ward age 12 through 15 to hunt with a weapon unless the  
 297 child has a certificate attesting to his or her satisfactory completion of such course on his  
 298 or her person; provided, however, that a hunter education course is not required for a child  
 299 ~~age 12 through 15~~ less than 16 years of age who is hunting under adult supervision by a  
 300 licensed adult hunter.

301 (e) Any person applying for an annual or multiyear nonresident hunting/fishing license  
 302 may provide a certificate of completion or such other evidence of completion the  
 303 department deems acceptable of the official hunter education or hunter safety course of  
 304 such person's state of residence if that course shall have been approved by the department.  
 305 ~~Those persons~~ No one applying for a hunting license ~~other than a season hunting of less~~  
 306 than one year in duration or for a lifetime license shall ~~not~~ be required to exhibit such a  
 307 certificate or to complete a hunter education course in order to obtain the license. Persons  
 308 holding a lifetime license shall complete an official hunter education or hunter safety  
 309 course and display proof of completion as specified by the department in order to hunt  
 310 unless otherwise exempted by this title.

311 (f) By rule or regulation, the board shall prescribe a course of instruction in competency  
 312 and safety in hunting and in the handling of weapons. The board shall also prescribe  
 313 procedures whereby competent residents of this state shall be certified as hunter education  
 314 instructors. The board may provide, by rule or regulation, for charging reasonable fees for  
 315 the issuance by the department of duplicate certificates of completion of a hunter education  
 316 course and for hunter education courses in order to defray the expenses of conducting such  
 317 courses. Any such fees shall be deemed as 'other income' of the department for purposes  
 318 of subsection (c) of Code Section 27-1-13.

319 (g) Any person violating any provision of this Code section shall be guilty of a  
 320 misdemeanor; provided, however, that this subsection shall not apply to any person under  
 321 the age of 16.

322 (h) The requirements of subsections (c) and (d) of this Code section shall not apply to any  
 323 person hunting on his or her own land or that of his or her parents or legal guardian or to  
 324 persons permitting a child or ward aged 12 through 15 years to hunt on the parent's or  
 325 guardian's own land."

#### 326 SECTION 8.

327 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-6, relating to trout, waterfowl,  
 328 big game, and alligator licenses, as follows:

329 "27-2-6.

330 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person who has attained the age of 16 years to fish for or  
 331 possess mountain trout or to fish in any waters designated as trout waters or trout streams  
 332 pursuant to Code Section 27-4-51 unless such person has in his or her possession a trout  
 333 license in addition to his or her fishing license.

334 (b) It shall be unlawful for any person who has attained the age of 16 years to hunt or  
 335 possess big game unless such person has in his or her possession a big game license in  
 336 addition to the required hunting license; provided, however, that all nonresidents,  
 337 regardless of age, must possess a nonresident hunting/fishing license along with any  
 338 harvest records required by law or regulation to hunt big game in this state.

339 (c) It shall be unlawful for any person who has attained the age of 16 years to hunt ducks,  
 340 geese, or swans unless such person has in his or her possession ~~an official Georgia~~  
 341 ~~waterfowl license~~ a Georgia waterfowl and migratory bird stamp in addition to the required  
 342 hunting license; provided, however, that a Georgia waterfowl and migratory bird stamp or  
 343 a landowner Georgia waterfowl and migratory bird stamp shall be required for any resident  
 344 of this state to hunt migratory birds on premises owned by him or her or his or her  
 345 immediate family.

346 (d) It shall be unlawful for any person who has attained the age of 16 years to hunt  
 347 alligators unless such person has in his or her possession ~~an alligator hunting license in~~  
 348 ~~addition to the required~~ a valid hunting license; ~~provided, however, that this subsection~~  
 349 ~~shall not apply to lifetime license holders.~~ A resident or nonresident alligator harvest  
 350 permit shall be required to harvest an alligator. Such permit shall be free to lifetime license  
 351 holders if selected as part of any department quota or lottery.

352 (e) No resident of this state shall be required to obtain a trout license, ~~official Georgia~~  
 353 ~~waterfowl license,~~ or big game license to hunt, fish, or trap on premises owned by him or  
 354 her or his or her immediate family.

355 (f) Any visitor to a state park, whether a resident or nonresident of Georgia, shall not be  
 356 required to purchase a trout license when fishing in impounded waters on lands owned or  
 357 leased by the department."

### 358 SECTION 9.

359 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-8, relating to commercial fishing  
 360 boat licenses, as follows:

361 "27-2-8.

362 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in commercial fishing with a boat or  
 363 vessel in the salt waters of this state without first obtaining a valid commercial fishing boat  
 364 license for the boat or vessel. The owner or operator of the boat or vessel shall present in  
 365 writing an application for the license, setting forth such data and information as the  
 366 department shall require. The application shall be made upon a form prescribed by the  
 367 department and shall be under oath and duly witnessed by an officer authorized by law to  
 368 administer oaths.

369 (b) Fees for licenses required under this Code section shall be as follows:

370 (1) A trawler (which shall be any boat or vessel which utilizes one or more trawls or  
 371 power-drawn nets in the taking of shrimp, crabs, or fish), up to and including 18 feet in  
 372 overall length, ~~\$50.00;~~ \$85.00;

373 (2) A trawler more than 18 feet in overall length, ~~\$50.00;~~ \$85.00 plus \$3.00 per foot or  
 374 fraction thereof of overall length in excess of 18 feet; and

375 (3) All boats other than trawlers, ~~up to and including 18 feet in overall~~ regardless of  
 376 length; \$5.00;

377 ~~(4) All boats, other than trawlers, over 18 feet in overall length, \$5.00 plus 50¢ per foot~~  
 378 ~~or fraction thereof in excess of 18 feet.~~

379 (c) To defray the additional cost of regulating and policing, aliens and nonresidents shall  
 380 be charged a license fee in addition to that provided by subsection (b) of this Code section  
 381 in the amount of ~~\$25.00~~ \$150.00 for each trawl boat or vessel used and \$50.00 for each

382 boat or vessel other than a trawler used in commercial fishing or in the taking of seafood,  
 383 which boat or vessel is owned, in whole or part, by such nonresident or alien, provided that,  
 384 in the event such nonresident or alien applying for the license is a resident of another state  
 385 which charges nonresidents a license fee greater than the total license fee charged for  
 386 nonresidents in this state, then the additional license fee provided for nonresidents in this  
 387 subsection shall be increased to the amount necessary to cause the Georgia nonresident  
 388 license fee to be the same amount as the nonresident license fee of such other state.

389 (d) The owner or operator of a trawler licensed according to subsection (b) of this Code  
 390 section may purchase a trawler crew license as provided for in subparagraphs (W) and (X)  
 391 of paragraph (8) of Code Section 27-2-23. Such license shall cover all crew members  
 392 aboard the trawler while fishing, and all such crew members while so covered shall be  
 393 exempt from the personal commercial fishing license requirements otherwise applicable  
 394 under this title. Such trawler crew license shall be separate and distinct from any other  
 395 license, shall be valid only for the trawler for which it is purchased, and shall not be  
 396 transferable to any other trawler or vessel. Such trawler crew license shall be valid for a  
 397 fishing year as provided for in Code Section 27-2-3 and shall be carried onboard the trawler  
 398 while the trawler is in operation for purposes of the trawler crew license."

399 **SECTION 10.**

400 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-20, relating to migratory bird  
 401 hunting, as follows:

402 "27-2-20.

403 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person 16 years of age or older to hunt brant, ducks, geese,  
 404 and swans in this state without a federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp.

405 (b) It shall be unlawful for any person required to obtain a hunting license as provided in  
 406 Code Section 27-2-1 to hunt any migratory game bird, including brant, ducks, geese,  
 407 swans, doves, rails, woodcock, snipe, gallinules, and coots, without participating in the  
 408 federal Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program. Participation in such program shall  
 409 require the completion of a an annual screening questionnaire prior to obtaining a free  
 410 Georgia waterfowl and migratory bird license ~~and the stamp~~ or a landowner Georgia  
 411 waterfowl and migratory bird stamp. Persons holding any other license conveying  
 412 migratory bird hunting privileges, including a lifetime sportsman's license, shall complete  
 413 the annual screening questionnaire before hunting migratory birds. Persons shall be in  
 414 possession of the license ~~or other~~ and evidence of participation in the annual screening  
 415 questionnaire as provided by the department while hunting migratory birds."

416

**SECTION 11.**

417

Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-2-23, relating to license, permit, stamp, and tag fees, as follows:

418

419

"27-2-23.

420

Fees for licenses, permits, tags, and stamps required by this title shall be as follows:

421

## (1) Hunting licenses:

422

(A) Resident hunting license	Annual	<del>\$10.00</del> <u>\$15.00</u>
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423

<del>(B) Resident hunting license</del>	<del>Two-year</del>	<del>18.00</del>
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424

<u>(B) Nonresident hunting license</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>100.00</u>
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425

<u>(C) Nonresident hunting license</u>	<u>One-day</u>	<u>20.00</u>
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426

<del>(C)(D) Resident big game license</del>	Annual	<del>9.00</del> <u>25.00</u>
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427

<del>(D)(E) Nonresident big game license</del>	Annual	<del>195.00</del> <u>225.00</u>
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428

<u>(F) Resident big game license</u>	<u>One-day</u>	<u>10.00</u>
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429

<del>(E)(G) Nonresident big game license</del>	<del>Three-day</del>	<del>90.00</del> <u>130.00</u>
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430

<u>One-day</u>		
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431

<del>(F) Resident big game license</del>	Two-year	16.00
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432

<u>(H) Resident senior hunting license for 65</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>4.00</u>
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433

years of age or older

434

<del>(G)(I) Shooting preserve hunting license valid</del>	Two-year	12.00
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435

for residents and nonresidents

436

<del>(H)(J) Commercial fox hunting preserve</del>	<del>Season</del>	<del>60.00</del> <u>75.00</u>
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437

license	<u>Seasonal</u>	
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438

<del>(H)(K) Commercial fox breeder license</del>	<del>Season</del>	<del>60.00</del> <u>75.00</u>
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439

<u>Seasonal</u>		
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440

<del>(J) Waterfowl license</del> <u>(L) Georgia waterfowl</u>	Annual	<del>5.50</del> <u>5.00</u>
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441

and migratory bird stamp valid for residents

442

and nonresidents

443

<u>(M) Landowner Georgia waterfowl and</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>0.00</u>
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444

migratory bird stamp

445

<del>(K) Waterfowl license valid for residents and</del>	Two-year	11.00
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446

nonresidents

447

<del>(L) Georgia migratory bird license</del>	Annual	Free
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448

## (2) Hunting and fishing licenses:

449

(A) Resident hunting/fishing license	Annual	<del>17.00</del> <u>30.00</u>
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450

<del>(B) Resident hunting/fishing license</del>	Two-year	31.00
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451	<del>(C)</del> <u>(B)</u> Nonresident hunting/fishing license	<del>Three-day</del>	<del>20.00</del> <u>30.00</u>
452		<u>One-day</u>	
453	<del>(D)</del> <u>(C)</u> Resident hunting/fishing license	<del>Three-day</del>	<del>3.50</del> <u>5.00</u>
454		<u>One-day</u>	
455	<del>(E)</del> <u>(D)</u> Nonresident hunting/fishing license	Annual	<del>100.00</del> <u>150.00</u>
456	(3) Sportsman's licenses:		
457	(A) Resident sportsman's license	Annual	<del>55.00</del> <u>65.00</u>
458	<del>(B)</del> Resident sportsman's license	Two-year	<del>105.00</del>
459	<u>(B) Nonresident sportsman's license</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>400.00</u>
460	<u>(C) Resident sportsman's license</u>	<u>One-day</u>	<u>25.00</u>
461	<u>(D) Nonresident sportsman's license</u>	<u>One-day</u>	<u>170.00</u>
462	<u>(E) Resident optional youth sportsman's</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>5.00</u>
463	<u>license for 12 to 15 years of age</u>		
464	<u>(F) Resident optional youth sportsman's</u>	<u>Multiyear</u>	<u>15.00</u>
465	<u>license for 12 to 15 years of age</u>		
466	<u>(G) Resident senior sportsman's license for 65</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>7.00</u>
467	<u>years of age or older</u>		
468	(4) Recreational fishing licenses:		
469	(A) Resident fishing license	Annual	<del>9.00</del> <u>15.00</u>
470	<del>(B)</del> Resident fishing license	Two-year	<del>16.00</del>
471	<del>(C)</del> <u>(B)</u> Nonresident fishing license	Annual	<del>45.00</del> <u>50.00</u>
472	<u>(C) Nonresident fishing license</u>	<u>One-day</u>	<u>10.00</u>
473	(D) Resident trout license	Annual	<del>5.00</del> <u>10.00</u>
474	<del>(E)</del> Resident trout license	Two-year	<del>10.00</del>
475	<del>(F)</del> <u>(E)</u> Resident trout license	<del>Three-day</del>	<del>3.50</del> <u>5.00</u>
476		<u>One-day</u>	
477	<del>(G)</del> <u>(F)</u> Nonresident trout license	Annual	<del>20.00</del> <u>25.00</u>
478	<del>(H)</del> <u>(G)</u> Nonresident trout license	<del>Three-day</del>	<del>10.00</del>
479		<u>One-day</u>	
480	<del>(I)</del> Salt-water shore fishing license	One-day	<del>5.00</del>
481	<u>(H) Resident optional youth fishing license</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>3.00</u>
482	<u>(I) Resident optional youth fishing license</u>	<u>Multiyear</u>	<u>10.00</u>
483	<u>(J) Resident senior fishing license for 65 years</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>4.00</u>
484	<u>of age or older</u>		
485	(5) Trapping licenses:		

486	(A) Resident commercial trapping license	Annual	<del>30.00</del> <u>40.00</u>
487	(B) Nonresident commercial trapping license	Annual	<del>295.00</del> <u>325.00</u>
488	(6) Commercial fishing licenses:		
489	(A) Resident commercial fishing license	<del>Season</del>	<del>12.00</del> <u>20.00</u>
490		<u>Seasonal</u>	
491	(B) Nonresident commercial fishing license	<del>Season</del>	<del>118.00</del> <u>200.00</u>
492		<u>Seasonal</u>	
493	<u>(C) Resident commercial fishing species</u>	<u>Seasonal</u>	<u>5.00</u>
494	<u>endorsement</u>		
495	<u>(D) Nonresident commercial fishing species</u>	<u>Seasonal</u>	<u>10.00</u>
496	<u>endorsement</u>		
497	<del>(C)</del> <u>(E)</u> Resident commercial crabbing license	<del>Season</del>	<del>12.00</del> <u>20.00</u>
498		<u>Seasonal</u>	
499	<del>(D)</del> <u>(F)</u> Nonresident commercial crabbing	<del>Season</del>	<del>118.00</del> <u>200.00</u>
500	license	<u>Seasonal</u>	
501	(7) Fur, hide, and pelt licenses:		
502	(A) Resident fur dealer license	Annual	<del>295.00</del> <u>300.00</u>
503	(B) Nonresident fur dealer license	Annual	<del>415.00</del> <u>450.00</u>
504	(C) Fur dealer's agent license	Annual	<del>180.00</del> <u>200.00</u>
505	(8) Miscellaneous licenses and permits:		
506	(A) Retail fish dealer license	Annual	<del>10.00</del> <u>40.00</u>
507	(B) Wholesale fish dealer license	Annual	<del>59.00</del> <u>75.00</u>
508	(C) Resident game-holding permit	Annual	5.00
509	(D) Commercial quail breeder permit	Annual	30.00
510	(E) Scientific collecting permit	Annual	<del>50.00</del> <u>75.00</u>
511	(F) Wildlife exhibition permit	Annual	<del>59.00</del> <u>150.00</u>
512	(G) Commercial shooting preserve license	Annual	150.00
513	(H) Private shooting preserve license	Annual	50.00
514	(I) Reserved.		
515	(J) Commercial fish hatchery license	Annual	<del>59.00</del> <u>75.00</u>
516	(K) Catch-out pond license	Annual	<del>236.00</del> <u>250.00</u>
517	(L) Soft-shell crab dealer license	Annual	<del>10.00</del> <u>40.00</u>
518	(M) Resident taxidermist license	Three-year	150.00
519	(N) Nonresident taxidermist license	Three-year	500.00
520	(O) Falconry permit	Three-year	<del>30.00</del> <u>40.00</u>

521	(P) Commercial alligator farming license	Annual	<del>50.00</del> <u>75.00</u>
522	(Q) Resident alligator <del>hunting license</del> <u>harvest</u>	Annual	<del>50.00</del> <u>75.00</u>
523	<u>permit</u>		
524	(R) Nonresident alligator <del>hunting license</del>	Annual	<del>200.00</del> <u>250.00</u>
525	<u>harvest permit</u>		
526	(S) Wild animal license	Annual	<del>236.00</del> <u>250.00</u>
527	(T) Wild animal auction license	Seven-day	<del>5,000.00</del> <u>5,500.00</u>
528	(U) Resident bait dealer license	<del>Season</del>	<del>25.00</del> <u>40.00</u>
529		<u>Seasonal</u>	
530	(V) Nonresident bait dealer license	<del>Season</del>	<del>150.00</del> <u>250.00</u>
531		<u>Seasonal</u>	
532	(W) Resident film production wildlife permit	Annual	300.00
533	(X) Nonresident film production wildlife	Annual	600.00
534	permit		
535	(Y) Resident trawler crew license	<u>Annual</u>	<u>200.00</u>
536	(Z) Nonresident trawler crew license	<u>Annual</u>	<u>600.00</u>
537	(AA) Seafood dealer license	<u>Annual</u>	<u>40.00</u>

538 (9) Any one-day license purchased that has not expired may be extended for up to ten  
539 additional consecutive days by payment of additional reduced rate daily fees:

- 540 (A) Nonresident hunting license: \$6.00 per day;  
541 (B) Resident big game license: \$2.00 per day;  
542 (C) Nonresident big game license: \$8.00 per day;  
543 (D) Nonresident hunting/fishing license: \$10.00 per day;  
544 (E) Resident hunting/fishing license: \$1.00 per day;  
545 (F) Nonresident fishing license: \$3.50 per day;  
546 (G) Resident trout license: \$1.00 per day;  
547 (H) Nonresident trout license: \$2.00 per day;  
548 (I) Resident sportsman's license: \$3.00 per day; and  
549 (J) Nonresident sportsman's license: \$20.00 per day.

550 (10) The board is authorized to provide by rule for a fee not to exceed \$19.00 for resident  
551 daily, seasonal, or annual use permits, or licenses; a fee of \$38.00 for resident two-year  
552 use permits; or a fee not to exceed \$73.00 for nonresident annual use permits or licenses  
553 to hunt and fish on or otherwise use specially designated streams, lakes, public fishing  
554 areas, or wildlife management areas.

555 (11) For wildlife that may be legally taken by commercial fishing gear as authorized in  
556 this title or by board rule, the board may designate which species of wildlife or species



557 grouping of wildlife require a commercial fishing species endorsement for a fee shown  
 558 in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of paragraph (6) of this Code section in addition to the  
 559 required commercial fishing license. Each species or group of species so designated shall  
 560 require a separate commercial fishing species endorsement.

561 ~~(10)~~(12) The fees for any annual license established in subparagraphs ~~(1)(A) through~~  
 562 ~~(1)(F), (2)(A), (2)(B), (2)(E), (3)(A), (3)(B), (4)(A), (4)(B), (4)(C), (4)(D), (4)(E), and~~  
 563 ~~(4)(G)~~ (A) through (E) of paragraph (1) and in paragraph (2), (3), or (4) of this Code  
 564 section shall be reduced by \$2.75 the amount of the lowest available renewal transaction  
 565 fee for each renewal transaction made before the expiration date of the then current  
 566 license or tag. For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'renewal transaction' means the  
 567 renewal of one or more licenses by a licensee during a single telephone call, Internet  
 568 session, or on-site visit to a store.

569 (13) After July 1, 2017, the General Assembly shall not increase the cost of any license,  
 570 permit, tag, or stamp provided for in this Code section by more than 20 percent."

#### 571 SECTION 12.

572 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (c) of Code Section 27-2-28, relating to  
 573 unlawful collection of funds, as follows:

574 "(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to counterfeit, change, or alter or to attempt to  
 575 counterfeit, change, or alter any license or permit issued pursuant to this title. It shall be  
 576 unlawful for any person, other than a license agent authorized by the department or  
 577 authorized personnel of the department, to collect any funds for any license or permit  
 578 issued pursuant to this title or to charge a fee to obtain any such license or permit."

#### 579 SECTION 13.

580 Said title is further amended by revising subsections (g) and (h) of Code Section 27-3-17,  
 581 relating to hunting deer with dogs, as follows:

582 ~~"(g) Any person 16 years of age or older, including without limitation any person hunting~~  
 583 ~~on his or her own property, who hunts deer with dogs must obtain and possess a deer-dog~~  
 584 ~~hunting license in addition to all other required hunting licenses and permits. The license~~  
 585 ~~fee for such deer-dog license shall be \$5.00 for a one-year period, except that there shall~~  
 586 ~~be no charge for any holder of a valid honorary hunting license, sportsman's license, or~~  
 587 ~~lifetime sportsman's license issued pursuant to this title.~~

588 ~~(h)~~(g) In addition to the provisions of subsection (f) of this Code section, the commissioner  
 589 may ~~revoke a deer-dog license~~ suspend deer-dog hunting privileges for a specified period  
 590 of time not to exceed two years for any hunter who, within a single hunting season,  
 591 commits two or more violations of dogs off of permitted property. The hunter shall be

592 notified of the proposed suspension personally or by a letter sent by certified mail or  
 593 statutory overnight delivery to the hunter's address indicated on the application for a  
 594 hunting license. The proposed suspension shall become final 30 days after issuance if not  
 595 appealed as provided in this Code section. The hunter shall, upon petition within 30 days  
 596 of issuance of notice given as stated in this Code section, have a right to a hearing before  
 597 an administrative law judge appointed by the board. The hearing before the administrative  
 598 law judge shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the 'Georgia  
 599 Administrative Procedure Act,' and the rules and regulations adopted by the board pursuant  
 600 thereto. The decision of the administrative law judge shall constitute the final decision of  
 601 the board, and any party to the hearing, including the commissioner, shall have the right  
 602 of judicial review thereof in accordance with such chapter."

603

#### SECTION 14.

604 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-4-30, relating to fishing in private  
 605 ponds, as follows:

606 "27-4-30.

607 The owner of a private pond, the owner's immediate family, or tenants with the owner's  
 608 consent shall be permitted to fish within the bounds of the pond at any time and in any  
 609 manner without a fishing license. All other persons shall be required to obtain fishing  
 610 licenses to fish within the bounds of a private pond as provided in this title unless the fish  
 611 in the private pond are 'domestic fish' as defined in paragraph (23) of Code Section 27-1-2.  
 612 For the purposes of this Code section, the term 'private pond' shall not include ponds owned  
 613 by city or county governments, the State of Georgia, the United States, or authorities or  
 614 political subdivisions of such governments."

615

#### SECTION 15.

616 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-4-110, relating to required  
 617 commercial fishing license, as follows:

618 "27-4-110.

619 It shall be unlawful for any person other than the crew of a trawler licensed as provided in  
 620 Code Section 27-2-8 with a trawler crew license, for purposes of such license, or a person  
 621 in possession of a valid commercial crabbing license as provided for in Code Section  
 622 27-4-150, for purposes of such license, or a person in possession of a commercial food  
 623 shrimp cast netting license as provided in Code Section 27-4-205, for purposes of such  
 624 license, to engage in commercial fishing in any of the salt waters of this state without first  
 625 obtaining a commercial fishing license, which shall be carried on his or her person while  
 626 engaging in such activities. Each license shall be separate and distinct from each other and

627 separate from and in addition to the commercial fishing boat license required by Code  
628 Section 27-2-8."

629 **SECTION 16.**

630 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-4-136, relating to maintenance of  
631 records by suppliers, as follows:

632 "27-4-136.

633 (a)(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate as a seafood dealer or to own or  
634 operate shellfish canning or shucking facilities or otherwise deal in purchasing, landing,  
635 packing, or supplying raw shrimp, shellfish, crabs, fish, or other seafood for commercial  
636 purposes without having a valid seafood dealer license as provided for in Code Section  
637 27-2-23.

638 ~~(2)~~ It shall be unlawful for any person ~~owning or operating shellfish canning or shucking~~  
639 ~~facilities or otherwise dealing in purchasing, landing, packing, or supplying raw shrimp,~~  
640 ~~shellfish, crabs, fish, or other seafood for commercial purposes~~ required to have a seafood  
641 dealer license to fail to keep a record in which is entered the amount of shrimp, shellfish,  
642 crabs, fish, or other seafood taken from Georgia waters for commercial purposes; the  
643 name of each person from whom purchased; the date and price of purchase; the grade and  
644 quantity purchased; the name, number, and approximate tonnage of the boat in which  
645 they were brought to the facility; the number of calendar days expended in harvesting the  
646 product; the approximate location or locations of harvest; the quantity canned and packed  
647 for shipment; the date and amount of each shipment; and such other information as the  
648 department requires.

649 ~~(2)~~(3) Each person required to maintain records pursuant to paragraph ~~(1)~~ (2) of this  
650 subsection shall report such information to the department, whose address for the purpose  
651 of reporting shall be the Coastal Resource Division headquarters, at such times and in  
652 such manner as the board provides by rule or regulation.

653 (b) It shall be unlawful for any master collecting permittee to fail to maintain records in  
654 a form as prescribed by the Department of Agriculture.

655 (c) It shall be unlawful for any person required to have a seafood dealer license to purchase  
656 seafood from any person other than a properly licensed seafood harvester or another  
657 seafood dealer."

658 **SECTION 17.**

659 Said article is further amended by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (g) of Code Section  
660 27-4-151, relating to use of crab traps, as follows:

661 "(g)(1)(A) The first time after July 1, 1998, that a person obtains or renews a  
 662 commercial crabbing license, he or she shall obtain a permit from the department  
 663 establishing the maximum number of traps he or she may deploy at any given time  
 664 during that license year. Such permits shall be issued in 50 trap increments up to a  
 665 maximum of 200 traps. The licensee shall pay a fee of ~~\$2.00~~ \$2.50 per trap for the  
 666 permit, and the permit shall be for the same duration and shall be renewed at the same  
 667 time as the commercial crabbing license.

668 ~~(B) No crab trap permit may be sold or transferred to another person except as~~  
 669 ~~provided in this subparagraph. Such a permit may be transferred along with the transfer~~  
 670 ~~of the licensed commercial crabber's nontrawler license to a replacement vessel if the~~  
 671 ~~transfer of the permit and the license is registered with the department. Such a permit~~  
 672 ~~may be transferred to the purchaser of a commercial crab boat along with the~~  
 673 ~~commercial crabber's license and the commercial crabber's nontrawler license if the~~  
 674 ~~transfer of the permit, the commercial crabber's license, and the commercial crabber's~~  
 675 ~~nontrawler license are recorded with the department and a new permit fee is paid to the~~  
 676 ~~department.~~

677 ~~(C)~~(B) No crab trap permit may be amended to permit the use of more traps except at  
 678 the time of license renewal. The licensee shall have the trap permit in his or her  
 679 possession at all times while crabbing."

680 **SECTION 18.**

681 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 27-4-206, relating to issuance of  
 682 commercial food shrimp cast netting licenses, as follows:

683 "27-4-206.

684 (a) The department may issue no more than 200 commercial food shrimp cast netting  
 685 licenses as provided in this Code section. Such licenses shall be issued only to individuals  
 686 and shall not be transferable.

687 ~~(b) The department shall issue commercial food shrimp cast netting licenses for the~~  
 688 ~~1998-1999 license year in order of the date and time the application was received to~~  
 689 ~~individuals who:~~

690 ~~(1) Were in possession of a valid 1997-1998 commercial fishing license issued on or~~  
 691 ~~before December 12, 1997;~~

692 ~~(2) Were listed as owner or captain of a valid 1997-1998 commercial fishing boat license~~  
 693 ~~on the application for which a cast net was indicated as a commercial harvest gear on or~~  
 694 ~~before December 12, 1997; and~~

695 ~~(3) Are able to provide evidence satisfactory to the department that they sold shrimp~~  
 696 ~~ex-vessel during the 1997-1998 license year on or before December 12, 1997.~~

697 ~~(e)~~(b) If the number of licenses issued pursuant to subsection ~~(b)~~ (a) of this Code section  
 698 does not total 200, the department may issue the remaining allotment of commercial food  
 699 shrimp cast netting licenses in the initial or any subsequent license year by lottery devised  
 700 and operated by the department. After such lottery has been conducted, any remaining  
 701 unissued licenses may be issued via a method established by the department.

702 ~~(d)~~(c) The department shall charge a license fee for the commercial food shrimp cast  
 703 netting license in the amount of \$250.00 for a resident commercial food shrimp cast netting  
 704 license and \$2,500.00 for a nonresident commercial food shrimp cast netting license.

705 ~~(e)~~(d) Any license which is not renewed in subsequent license years shall revert to the  
 706 department to be issued as provided in subsection ~~(e)~~ (b) of this Code section."

707 **SECTION 19.**

708 Code Section 52-7-5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to numbering of  
 709 vessels, requirements, and fees, is amended by revising subsections (d), (e), and (j) as  
 710 follows:

711 "(d) Applications shall be signed by the owner or owners of the vessel and shall be  
 712 accompanied by the proper fee. Fees for numbering vessels for a registration period of  
 713 three years shall be as follows:

714	(1) Vessels up to 16 feet in length . . . . .	<del>\$15.00</del> <u>\$25.00</u>
715	(2) Vessels 16 to 26 feet in length . . . . .	<del>36.00</del> <u>60.00</u>
716	(3) Vessels 26 to 40 feet in length . . . . .	<del>90.00</del> <u>130.00</u>
717	(4) Vessels 40 feet in length or longer . . . . .	<del>150.00</del> <u>200.00</u>

718 After July 1, 2017, the General Assembly shall not increase the cost of any fee provided  
 719 for in this subsection by more than 20 percent.

720 (e)(1) Registration for vessels shall expire on the last day of the month of the owner's  
 721 birth in the last year of the registration period and shall thereafter be of no force or effect  
 722 unless renewed pursuant to this article; provided, however, that the registration for  
 723 vessels not owned by individuals shall expire on December 31 of the last year of the  
 724 registration period. Certificates of number may be renewed by the owner in the same  
 725 manner provided for in the initial securing of such certificates.

726 (2) Registrations may be renewed any time after October 1 prior to the year of  
 727 expiration. If the certificate of number is allowed to expire, a renewal application may  
 728 still be filed with the department so long as the applicant pays the registration fee  
 729 prescribed in subsection (d) of this Code section along with a \$10.00 late fee.

730 (3) Any application ~~for renewal~~ which, due to failure of the applicant to provide  
 731 additional information required by the department, remains incomplete 60 days after

732 initial receipt of such application shall expire, and a new application and registration fee  
733 shall be required ~~for renewal.~~"

734 "(j) The owner shall furnish the department ~~written~~ notice of the transfer of all or of any  
735 part of his or her interest, other than the creation of a security interest, in a vessel numbered  
736 in this state pursuant to this Code section, the theft or recovery of the vessel, or the  
737 destruction or abandonment of the vessel within 15 days thereof, in a manner specified by  
738 the department."

739 **SECTION 20.**

740 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2017, and shall apply to all offenses occurring on  
741 or after such date.

742 **SECTION 21.**

743 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.