**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 50‑9‑320, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE REQUIREMENT THAT CERTAIN PERSONS SUCCESSFULLY MUST COMPLETE A HUNTER’S EDUCATION PROGRAM BEFORE THEY ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A SOUTH CAROLINA HUNTING LICENSE, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THIS REQUIREMENT DOES NOT APPLY TO NONRESIDENT ACTIVE DUTY, HONORABLY DISCHARGED OR RETIRED MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED SERVICES WHO CAN DEMONSTRATE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES THAT THEY SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED RIFLE MARKSMANSHIP DURING THEIR MILITARY CAREER; AND TO PROVIDE THAT A NONRESIDENT DURING A SPECIFIED PERIOD MAY OBTAIN A LIFETIME COMBINATION LICENSE UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS WHICH GRANTS THE SAME PRIVILEGES AS A STATEWIDE COMBINATION LICENSE; AND TO PROVIDE THAT A NONRESIDENT MAY OBTAIN A LIFETIME COMBINATION LICENSE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 50‑9‑320 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 50‑9‑320. No resident or nonresident born after June 30, 1979, may obtain a hunting license in this State unless he first exhibits the certificate of completion he receives pursuant to Section 50‑9‑310 to the authorized hunting license agent from whom he desires to buy a license. A certificate of successful completion of a hunter’s education program issued by other states or territories of the United States, Canadian provinces, or other nations is valid for purposes of this article if the department approves the course as comparable to the program required by this article. A license issued in violation of this section is invalid.

The provisions of this section requiring completion of a hunter’s education program as a prerequisite to receiving a hunting license do not apply to resident active duty, honorably discharged, or retired members of the United States Armed Services who can demonstrate to the department that they successfully have completed rifle marksmanship training during their military career. Applicants for this exemption must apply at a South Carolina Department of Natural Resources regional office or a designated military base.”

SECTION 2. (A) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a nonresident may obtain a lifetime combination license which grants the same privileges as a statewide combination license from the Department of Natural Resources at its Columbia office if:

(1) the applicant was born in this State and provides a notarized birth certificate from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control;

(2) the applicant has held title in fee simple, either in whole or in part, to real property located within this State for at least five years immediately preceding the date of application, and the applicant provides a notarized record of ownership from the appropriate county official in the county where the real property is located;

(3) the applicant, if born after June 30, 1979, and having attained the age of sixteen or older, complies with all hunter education requirements of this State and provides a certificate of completion for the course; and

(4) the applicant has not been charged for natural resource violations which could result in the suspension of hunting or fishing privileges.

(B) This license is available for purchase from July 1, 2011, through September 30, 2011. The fee for the license is seven hundred dollars.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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