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KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT FORM
2026 REGULAR SESSION

Amend printed copy of **SB 39**

Beginning on page 1, line 3, and continuing through page 4, line 4, delete Section 1 in its entirety and insert in lieu thereof the following:

"➔Section 1. KRS 150.170 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Except as provided in the following subsections of this section, and subject to administrative regulations promulgated under this chapter, no person, resident, or nonresident shall do any act authorized by any kind of license or permit or assist in any way any person in doing any act provided for in this chapter with respect to wildlife unless he or she holds the kind of license or permit, resident or nonresident, that authorizes the act. It shall be the specific purpose of this chapter to prohibit the taking or pursuing of any wildlife, protected or unprotected, or the fishing in any stream or body of water whether public or private, without first procuring the license provided for in KRS 150.175, except to the extent as may be otherwise provided in this section.
- (2) A person under sixteen (16) years of age may, without a sport fishing license, take fish by angling, or take minnows by the use of a minnow seine, minnow trap, or dip net.
- (3) A person under twelve (12) years of age shall be exempt from being required to obtain a sport hunting or sport trapping license as required by this chapter.
- (4) ~~A[The]~~ resident **of the Commonwealth who is the** owner of farmlands or his or her spouse or dependent children shall, without procuring any sport hunting or sport fishing licenses,

Amendment No. SFA 4

Rep. Sen. Robin L. Webb

Committee Amendment

Floor Amendment

Adopted: _____

Rejected: _____

Signed: _____

LRD Drafter: _____

Date: _____

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have the right to take fish or hunt during the open season, except trapping, on farmlands of which they are bona fide owners. Tenants or their dependent children residing upon these farmlands shall have the same privilege.

- (5) (a) A resident of the Commonwealth who is the owner of farmlands or his or her spouse or dependent children shall not be subject to any limits or restrictions established in this chapter or the administrative regulations promulgated thereunder for creel, possession, size, or lawful method of take for the fish in the farmland owner's private lake or pond. A resident of the Commonwealth who is the owner of farmlands may extend the same rights conferred in this subsection relating to fishing in private lakes or ponds located on his or her lands to any tenants or their dependent children. The rights extended by this subsection shall not apply to farmlands owned by a business, corporation, or partnership unless the shareholders, partners, members, or owners are composed solely of an immediate family who farm the land.
- (b) Except for restrictions on the stocking of fish deemed to be invasive by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or state or federal law, a resident of the Commonwealth who is the owner of farmlands shall not be subject to any state requirements regarding the stocking of private lakes or ponds located on the farmland owner's property.
- (c) With respect to the stocking of private lakes and ponds:
1. All largemouth bass (*Micropterus nigricans*), except for Alabama bass (*Micropterus henshalli*), shall not be considered invasive species; and
 2. There shall be no restriction on the stocking of first filial (F1) largemouth bass.
- (d) Fish taken using a right or privilege conferred by this subsection shall not be

transported off of the private farmlands, live or dead, without documentation authenticating that the fish was taken according to the requirements of this subsection, including but not limited to permission from the private farmland owner in written or electronic form specifying the permissible fishing dates and the location of the lake or pond.

(e) As used in this subsection, "private lake or pond" means a lake or pond that is:

1. Twenty-five (25) acres or less;
2. Located entirely within the private farmlands of the owner;
3. Not connected by surface water to any public waters; and
4. Not accessible to fish from other bodies of water.

(6) Residents or nonresidents observing and participating in field trials, training exercises, or other competitions as authorized by the department may observe and participate without obtaining a hunting or guide's license so long as game is not taken.

~~(Z)(6)~~ Any resident serviceman on furlough of more than three (3) days in this state may, without any Kentucky sport hunting or sport fishing licenses, do any act authorized by the licenses, but while so doing he or she shall carry on his or her person proper identification and papers showing his or her furlough status.

~~(8)(7)~~ Residents of the Commonwealth who are landowners, their spouses or dependent children, or their designee who must be approved by the commissioner, who kill or trap on their lands any wildlife causing damage to the lands or any personal property situated thereon shall not be required to have a hunting or trapping license and may do so during periods other than the open season for the particular species without a tag and dispose of the carcass on-site. Tenants, their spouses, their dependent children, or other persons approved by the commissioner, shall also have the same privilege. Upon destruction of any wildlife by the above-specified individuals, the act shall be reported to a game warden

within twenty-four (24) hours of the kill. Individuals wishing to transport the carcass from the property upon which it was killed shall contact personnel of the department to request a disposal tag or other authorization. Inedible parts from wildlife taken under the authorization of this section shall not be utilized for any purpose and shall be destroyed or left afield. The department shall promulgate administrative regulations establishing procedures for the designee appointment process, including request and approval deadlines.

~~(9)~~~~(8)~~ If a reciprocal agreement is entered into by the commissioner, with the approval of the commission, and promulgated as an administrative regulation by the department and similar action is taken by the appropriate authority in Missouri, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Indiana, Ohio, or Illinois, persons holding a resident or nonresident fishing or a resident or nonresident hunting license issued in these states shall be permitted to perform the acts authorized by the license upon certain contiguous waters and land areas adjacent to the common boundaries of the above-mentioned states and the State of Kentucky. A resident of the State of Kentucky shall purchase a proper Kentucky license to conform with the reciprocal agreement.

~~(10)~~~~(9)~~ Any member of the Kentucky Army or Air National Guard, active duty or Reserve Component, in any branch in the United States Armed Forces that is based in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, shall have the right to take fish or hunt on any military property belonging to the Commonwealth without procuring any sport hunting or sport fishing license.

~~(11)~~~~(10)~~ A person not otherwise exempted from hunter safety education or from procuring any sport hunting or sport fishing license shall be exempt from the department-sanctioned live-fire exercise component of the hunter education course requirement if he or she:

- (a) Is a current member of the Armed Forces of the United States;
- (b) Has served in the Armed Forces of the United States and was discharged or released

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therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable; or

- (c) Is a peace officer certified pursuant to KRS 15.380 to 15.404.

(12) As used in this section, "farmlands" means any tract of land:

- (a) Of at least five (5) contiguous acres in area used for the production of livestock, livestock products, poultry, poultry products, the growing of tobacco or other crops, including timber; or**
- (b) Devoted to and meeting the requirements and qualifications for payments pursuant to agriculture programs under an agreement with the state or federal government."**