

CHAPTER 703

(House Bill 1187)

AN ACT concerning

Natural Resources - Wild Waterfowl - Issuance of Fishing and Hunting Licenses

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Secretary of Natural Resources to delegate the authority to issue certain fishing or hunting licenses; prohibiting the Secretary from designating the authority to issue certain fishing or hunting licenses to a clerk of a circuit court; repealing provisions allowing certain clerks to issue certain fishing or hunting licenses; repealing certain provisions requiring certain clerks to transmit to the Department of Natural Resources certain money collected from the issuance of certain fishing or hunting licenses; repealing certain provisions regarding the hunting of wild waterfowl; authorizing a person to hunt wild waterfowl under certain conditions and with certain weapons; restricting a person from shooting wild waterfowl under certain conditions; establishing the areas and the circumstances from where and under which a person may hunt wild waterfowl in waters on the natural bottom, in a boat that is drifting or being sculled, and from a boat that is anchored; prohibiting nonresidents from hunting wild waterfowl except under certain circumstances; authorizing certain riparian landowners to license their riparian shoreline to establish certain stationary blinds or blind sites ~~to prevent other persons from hunting wild waterfowl~~ for certain purposes; establishing the conditions under which a riparian landowner may erect a stationary blind or blind site; requiring certain riparian landowners to license their shorelines for certain purposes under certain circumstances; prohibiting a certain State or federal unit or a certain assignee from licensing certain riparian shoreline; authorizing a certain federal or State unit that owns certain riparian land to apply to the Department to establish a certain wild waterfowl safety zone; establishing certain licensing procedures; providing for the resolution of conflicts between certain applicants; establishing certain requirements for the placement and marking of certain offshore stationary blinds and offshore blind sites; requiring the Department to construct blinds in certain locations under certain circumstances; authorizing the Department to allow hunting of wild waterfowl from a boat that is drifting or anchored in certain waters; requiring the Department to encourage in a certain manner local and federal government to make opportunities to hunt waterfowl from blinds; prohibiting the Department from allowing waterfowl hunting on certain lands unless the land is open to public hunting; providing that a licensee whose stationary blind, blind site, or stake is destroyed in a certain manner may not lose the location and may reestablish the stationary blind, blind site, or stake; prohibiting offshore stationary blinds or blind sites in certain locations; prohibiting a person from entering, using, or occupying certain stationary blinds, blind sites, or stakes except under certain circumstances; requiring the Department to inspect certain blind sites to determine the validity of certain certification under certain circumstances; defining certain terms; providing for a delayed effective date;