

ASSEMBLYMAN  
**Juan Alanis**  
22ND DISTRICT

**AB 293 – Lifetime Hunting and Sport Fishing Licenses: Gold Star Family Members.**

SUMMARY

Assembly Bill 293 (AB 293) will allow immediate family members of a Gold Star Family to obtain lifetime fishing and hunting licenses.

EXISTING LAW

California's current law requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to issue lifetime hunting licenses and lifetime sport fishing licenses. Additionally, state law allows the Department of Fish and Wildlife to grant certain lifetime privileges to holders of those licenses upon receipt of a one-time payment of specified fees.

WHY THIS BILL MATTERS

Gold Star Family Members are not currently exempt from the fees of lifetime hunting licenses and lifetime sport fishing licenses.

Other states and the federal government already provide similar benefits for Gold Star Families like AB 293 would provide.

California has set a long precedent of leading the way in honoring our state's fallen heroes and their immediate family members. This exemption would do more than just honor service members (and their family) who have fallen in the line of duty; it would help provide additional access to healing and therapeutic outdoor activities like sport fishing and hunting.

The National Gold Star Registry reports the following numbers of California Gold Star Families from the following conflicts:

- Operation Iraqi Freedom – 471
- Operation Enduring Freedom – 240
- Operation Desert Storm – 20
- Vietnam War – 5,571

IF ENACTED INTO LAW

AB 293 would require, upon appropriate application to the Department of Fish and Wildlife, to offer lifetime hunting licenses and lifetime sport fishing licenses to Gold Star Family Members, at no cost, who meet the eligibility requirements outlined.

Specifically, those requirements include:

- The person has not been convicted of a violation of the Fish and Game Code.
- The person submits proof from the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Defense that a family member who was in the Armed Forces of the United States was killed in the line of duty while on active duty in the military.
- The person submits satisfactory proof to the Department of Fish and Wildlife that they are one of the following relationships to the family member who served as a member of the Armed Forces and who was killed in the line of duty: (Spouse or Partner, Parent, Sibling or Child)

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