

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1917 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY BRIGGS, GUZMAN, FREEMAN, HILL-EVANS, BURGOS,
PIELLI, KHAN, SANCHEZ, HOWARD, SHUSTERMAN AND GREEN,
OCTOBER 3, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAME AND FISHERIES, OCTOBER 6, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending Titles 30 (Fish) and 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in fishing licenses, providing for
3 indigenous Americans fishing licenses; and, in hunting and
4 furtaking licenses, further providing for resident license
5 and fee exemptions.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Title 30 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
9 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

10 § 2707.3. Indigenous Americans fishing licenses.

11 (a) Acknowledgment.--The General Assembly acknowledges that:

12 (1) The Commonwealth is uncaded territory to the
13 federally recognized Lenape, Shawnee and Seneca-Cayuga
14 nations.

15 (2) Hunting and fishing rights were never ceded by
16 native nations to the Commonwealth.

17 (3) The citizens of the federally recognized Lenape
18 tribes, Shawnee, Seneca-Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Mohawk and
19 Tuscarora nations should be granted the right to hunt and

1 fish freely in this Commonwealth.

2 (b) Issuing of licenses.--Indigenous American fishing
3 licenses shall be issued by the commission, county treasurer or
4 issuing agent to an individual who is a formally recognized
5 member of a federally recognized indigenous tribe. Before the
6 issuance of a license under this chapter, an individual must
7 provide at least one of the following forms of documentation in
8 addition to a valid photo identification card:

9 (1) A certificate of Degree of Indian or Alaska Native
10 Blood.

11 (2) A written statement from an official of the
12 federally recognized indigenous tribe from which the
13 individual or the individual's ancestors originated.

14 (3) Genealogical documentation showing that the
15 individual:

16 (i) lineally descends from an ancestor who was a
17 member of a federally recognized indigenous tribe from
18 which the individual claims descent; or

19 (ii) was legally adopted or married into the
20 federally recognized indigenous tribe from which the
21 individual claims descent.

22 (c) Fee.--The commission, county treasurer or issuing agent
23 may not charge a fee for a license after presentation of the
24 required documentation under this section.

25 (d) Definition.--As used in this section, the term
26 "federally recognized indigenous tribe" means an American Indian
27 or Alaska Native tribal entity that is recognized as having a
28 government-to-government relationship with the United States,
29 with the responsibilities, powers, limitations and obligations
30 attached to that designation.

Section 2. Section 2706 of Title 34 is amended by adding a subsection to read:

§ 2706. Resident license and fee exemptions.

* * *

(i) Indigenous Americans hunting licenses.--

(1) The General Assembly acknowledges that:

(i) The Commonwealth is unceded territory to the federally recognized Lenape, Shawnee and Seneca-Cayuga nations.

(ii) Hunting and fishing rights were never ceded by native nations to the Commonwealth.

(iii) The citizens of the federally recognized Lenape tribes, Shawnee, Seneca-Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Mohawk and Tuscarora nations should be granted the right to hunt and fish freely in this Commonwealth.

(2) Indigenous American hunting licenses shall be issued by the commission, county treasurer or issuing agent to an individual who is a formally recognized member of a federally recognized indigenous tribe. Before the issuance of a license under this subsection, an individual must provide at least one of the following forms of documentation in addition to a valid photo identification card:

(i) a certificate of Degree of Indian or Alaska Native Blood;

(ii) a written statement from an official of the federally recognized indigenous tribe from which the individual or the individual's ancestors originated; or

(iii) genealogical documentation showing that the individual:

(A) lineally descends from an ancestor who was a

1 member of the federally recognized indigenous tribe
2 from which the individual claims descent; or

3 (B) was legally adopted or married into the
4 federally recognized indigenous tribe from which the
5 individual claims descent.

6 (3) The commission, county treasurer or issuing agent
7 may not charge a fee for this license after presentation of
8 the required documentation under this subsection.

9 (4) As used in this subsection, the term "federally
10 recognized indigenous tribe" means an American Indian or
11 Alaska Native tribal entity that is recognized as having a
12 government-to-government relationship with the United States,
13 with the responsibilities, powers, limitations and
14 obligations attached to that designation.

15 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.