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from the Illinois House of Representatives

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FRANKS' BILL TO ALLOW ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL TO HUNT AND FISH WITHOUT A LICENSE ONE STEP CLOSER TO BEOMING LAW

SPRINGFIELD, IL – State Representative Jack D. Franks' (D-Woodstock) legislation to allow active duty military personnel in Illinois to hunt and fish while on leave without obtaining a license passed out of the House Agriculture and Conservation Committee unanimously Tuesday.

“Active duty military personnel should be allowed to enjoy their hobbies while on leave,” Franks said. “Many of our servicemen and women come from families who enjoy hunting and fishing. The paperwork involved in receiving a license for these activities is an unnecessary obstacle that prevents them from participating in these activities with their family and friends while home for a short time on leave.”

House Bill 4721 amends the Fish and Aquatic Life Code and the Wildlife Code to allow active duty military personnel who are Illinois residents on leave to hunt and/or fish without obtaining a hunting or fishing license from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. There are currently about 40,000 active members of the military who would be eligible to hunt and fish without a license under this bill.

“The men and women serving our country in the military make sacrifices for which we can never fully repay them,” Franks said. “They miss out on important family events and experiences while away on duty. For the short time they are home with their loved ones, petty obstacles should not stand in their way of making the most out of the time they have together. Allowing these brave soldiers to enjoy the little pleasures in life is one of the best ways we can thank them.”

House Bill 4721 now moves to the House floor for further consideration. For more information, contact Franks' constituent service office at (815) 334-0063.

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