



## 2025 South Dakota Legislature

# House Bill 1215

Introduced by: **Representative** DeGroot

1 **An Act to provide rulemaking authority for the licensure of fishing guides, hunting**  
 2 **guides, and outfitters, and to provide a penalty.**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 **Section 1. That a NEW SECTION be added to chapter 41-6:**

5 The Game, Fish and Parks Commission shall, by rule promulgated in accordance  
 6 with chapter 1-26, provide for the licensure of individuals who serve as fishing guides,  
 7 hunting guides, or outfitters, or any combination thereof. The rules must include:

- 8 (1) Permitted and restricted activities within each category of licensure;  
 9 (2) Criteria for licensure eligibility, including a requirement that the applicant be a  
 10 resident of this state;  
 11 (3) Fees for each type of license established under this section;  
 12 (4) Administrative and recordkeeping requirements for licensees;  
 13 (5) Conditions under which required records may be requested or inspected by the  
 14 commission;  
 15 (6) Conditions under which facilities and equipment may be inspected by the  
 16 Department;  
 17 (7) Operational guidelines for licensees;  
 18 (8) Requirements for liability insurance, including the nature, type, and amount;  
 19 (9) The process by which licensure applications are accepted and considered;  
 20 (10) The grounds upon which a licensure application may be denied;  
 21 (11) The grounds upon which a license may be suspended or revoked, and the  
 22 administrative procedures to be followed, including public notice and public  
 23 testimony; and  
 24 (12) Any other provisions deemed necessary by the commission to establish,  
 25 implement, and administer a program for the licensure of individuals who serve as  
 26 fishing guides, hunting guides, or outfitters, or any combination thereof.

1           Beginning July 1, 2026, any individual who serves as a fishing guide, a hunting  
2 guide, or an outfitter, without having been issued a license in accordance with rules  
3 promulgated under this section, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

4           The requirements of this section do not apply to guiding activities occurring on a  
5 shooting preserve, as defined in § 41-10-1, or to an individual who is the owner of property  
6 and authorizes another to hunt on that property, provided the individual does not  
7 otherwise engage in guiding activities.