

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 554 (Delegate Beitzel)
 Environment and Transportation Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Natural Resources - Nonresident Senior and Junior Hunting Licenses

This bill establishes a nonresident senior hunting license available for purchase by a nonresident beginning the year that they turn 65. The license fee is \$65. The bill also decreases the fee for a nonresident junior license (for nonresidents younger than age 16) from \$65.00 to \$32.50. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly, by December 31, 2017, that describes (1) the number of nonresident junior and regular hunting licenses issued for license years 2013-2014 through 2016-2017; (2) the number of nonresident senior hunting licenses issued for license years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017; and (3) an estimate of any economic benefits to the State resulting from the issuance of nonresident hunting licenses, including increased business activity and tax receipts.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015, and terminates June 30, 2018.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Net special fund revenues for DNR from hunting license fees decrease by approximately \$136,900 annually from FY 2016 through 2018. Expenditures are not directly affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
SF Revenue	(\$136,900)	(\$136,900)	(\$136,900)	\$0	\$0
Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$136,900)	(\$136,900)	(\$136,900)	\$0	\$0

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: With certain exceptions, a person may not hunt or attempt to hunt during open season and in any permitted manner any game birds and mammals in the State without a resident or nonresident hunter's license. Resident and nonresident hunting licenses enable the purchaser to hunt all legal game birds and mammals during any appropriate season without the purchase of additional stamps, unless the purchaser is hunting migratory game birds, wild waterfowl, or deer during bow and arrow season or black powder season, in which case specified stamps are required.

Varying fees apply for DNR hunting licenses and stamps. Lower hunting license fees also apply to persons younger than age 16 and residents who are age 65 or older. Rates for regular and junior nonresident licenses are higher. A hunting license is valid for the period from August 1 through July 31 each year. Funds generated from any license, stamp, application, or permit fee under wildlife provisions in the Natural Resources Article must be credited to the State Wildlife Management and Protection Fund and used for the scientific investigation, protection, propagation, and management of wildlife.

A resident hunting license is \$24.50, a resident junior hunting license is \$10.50, and a resident senior hunting license is \$5.00. A nonresident hunting license is \$130.00, and a nonresident junior license is \$65.00. A nonresident three-day hunting license is \$45.00.

State Fiscal Effect: DNR special fund revenues decrease by an estimated \$136,890 annually from fiscal 2016 through 2018 as a result of the establishment of the nonresident senior hunting license and the decrease in the fee for a nonresident junior license. This estimate assumes that:

- based on 2014-2015 license sales, 1,906 nonresident senior licenses are purchased at \$65 instead of \$130 in fiscal 2016 through 2018;
- approximately 800 nonresident junior licenses are purchased at \$32.50 instead of \$65 in fiscal 2016 through 2018;
- as a result of the decrease in the fee, an additional 400 nonresident junior licenses are issued at \$32.50 each in fiscal 2016 through 2018; and
- license sales remain constant over time.

DNR advises that it must modify the COMPASS system, a point-of-sale system through which hunting licenses are sold. However, DNR advises that it can modify the COMPASS system with existing resources. Similarly, DNR can likely handle the bill's reporting requirements with existing budgeted resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 2, 2015

md/lgc

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Analysis by: Kathleen P. Kennedy

Direct Inquiries to:

(410) 946-5510

(301) 970-5510