

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1287 (Delegate O'Donnell)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission and Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission
- Membership

This bill adds one member to the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission and one member to the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission, each of whom must be a representative of the aquaculture industry in the State. The initial term of the new member appointed to the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission begins July 1, 2015, and expires June 30, 2017. The initial term of the new member appointed to the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission begins July 1, 2015, and expires June 30, 2019.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances. Any expense reimbursements for the additional commission members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law:

Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission

The Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission is composed of up to 15 members, comprised of up to 14 commercial watermen and 1 member of the Sport Fisheries Advisory

Commission. The composition of the commission must reflect the geographic regions of the State where the commercial fishing industry is operating. The term of a member is two years.

Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission

The Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission provides the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) advice on recreational fisheries matters. The commission is composed of 16 members whose experience and backgrounds must represent the diversified angling interests and waters of the State. The commission must include one member of the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission who is not the representative of the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission serving on the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission. The term of a member is four years.

Background: The Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission and the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission were created in 1973 and advise the Director of the Fisheries Service in DNR on matters regarding commercial and recreational fishing. The membership of the commissions was modified in 2010 (Chapter 219) to increase the membership of each commission from 12 to 15 members. Chapter 587 of 2014 increased the membership of the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission to 16 to include a member of the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission.

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 25, 2015
min/lgc Revised - House Third Reader - April 2, 2015

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