

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 First Reader

House Bill 1374 (Delegate Rose, *et al.*)
 Environment and Transportation

Hunting and Fishing - Complimentary Licenses - Military and Veterans

This bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to issue a complimentary angler’s license, Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license, or a hunting license to a Maryland resident who is (1) serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or (2) a veteran.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues for DNR decrease by \$597,500 annually beginning in FY 2017 due to foregone license fees. Federal fund revenues decrease by \$111,500 annually beginning in FY 2019, as a result of fewer hunting licenses being sold. Expenditures are not directly affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
SF Revenue	\$597,500	\$597,500	\$597,500	\$597,500	\$597,500
FF Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$111,500	\$111,500	\$111,500
Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	\$597,500	\$597,500	\$709,000	\$709,000	\$709,000

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: DNR issues various types of hunting and fishing licenses and associated stamps. These licenses can be purchased online through DNR's COMPASS portal. Although licenses are generally required to hunt or fish in the State, there are certain exceptions. For example, a person serving in the U.S. Armed Forces who has a service-connected disability and possesses a valid military identification while hunting is not required to hold a hunting license, and a Maryland resident who is on leave from active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces is not required to hold a hunting or a fishing license. In addition, a retired former member of the U.S. Armed Forces hunting on active farmland is not required to hold a hunting license under specified conditions.

Varying fees apply for DNR hunting and fishing licenses. Lower fees apply to junior and senior hunting and fishing licenses. With respect to licenses that apply to Maryland residents, fishing license fees range from \$6 for a resident seven-day Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license to \$20.50 for an annual resident nontidal sport fishing license. Hunting license fees range from \$5 for a senior resident license to \$24.50 for an adult resident regular hunting license.

State Revenues: DNR special fund revenues decrease by an estimated \$597,479 annually beginning in fiscal 2017, assuming that DNR issues complimentary fishing and hunting licenses to eligible persons. The estimate is based on 2015 license sales. The information and assumptions used in calculating the estimate are stated below:

- there were 427,068 veterans living in Maryland in 2014, as reported by the U.S. census, and there are approximately 4.6 million adult residents in Maryland;
- veterans account for approximately 9.3% of Maryland's population;
- although the number of active-duty military members residing in Maryland is unknown, there are 18,271 residents in the reserves;
- an estimated 0.4% of Maryland's adult population is serving in the U.S. Armed Forces;
- the number of anglers and hunters that are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or are veterans is similar to the statewide average;
- the number of fishing and hunting licenses in 2015 remains constant in future years;
- a 9.3% reduction in the sale of affected fishing licenses results in a loss of approximately \$390,900 in special fund revenues;
- a 9.3% reduction in the sale of hunting licenses results in a loss of approximately \$182,066 in special fund revenues; and
- a 0.4% reduction in fishing licenses sales for affected licenses results in a loss of approximately \$16,724 in special fund revenues, and a 0.4% reduction in hunting

licenses sales for affected licenses results in a loss of approximately \$7,808 in special fund revenues.

Because the bill decreases the number of hunting licenses that would have otherwise been sold, DNR loses federal Wildlife Restoration and Basic Hunter Education program funding. DNR receives \$13 in federal funds for every hunting license purchased in the State. The number of hunting licenses sold affects federal funding two fiscal years later. Based on the assumptions and information used above, federal fund revenues decrease by approximately \$111,527 annually beginning in fiscal 2019 based on the sale of 8,579 fewer hunting licenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 8, 2016
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Analysis by: Kathleen P. Kennedy

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510