

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 562 (Delegates Hornberger and D. Jones)
Environment and Transportation Education, Energy, and the Environment

Special Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License - Nonresidents - License Fee

This bill increases the annual fee for a special Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license, for nonresident applicants, from \$50 to \$100.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues increase by \$359,500 in FY 2025 and by \$460,900 annually thereafter. Expenditures are not affected.

Table with 6 columns: (in dollars), FY 2025, FY 2026, FY 2027, FY 2028, FY 2029. Rows include SF Revenue, Expenditure, and Net Effect.

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is authorized to provide by regulation for the issuance of an annual special Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license (which DNR calls a "consolidated Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport boat license"), which when permanently affixed to a boat registered in any state (other than a boat hired to take persons fishing) authorizes any person on the boat to fish under the license, provided the person registers with DNR. The annual license fee is \$50, and revenues from the fee

are deposited in the Fisheries Research and Development Fund to be used for specified purposes related to recreational fishing.

State Revenues: Special fund (Fisheries Research and Development Fund) revenues increase by \$359,463 in fiscal 2025, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2024 effective date, and by \$460,850 annually thereafter. DNR indicates that 9,217 nonresidents currently hold the consolidated Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport boat license. This estimate assumes that (1) the same number of nonresidents are issued licenses in fiscal 2025 and future years and (2) the fee increase only applies to 78% of applicants in fiscal 2025 due to the bill's October 1, 2024 effective date (based on data provided by DNR on the timing of the purchase of licenses in calendar 2023).

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 507 (Senators Bailey and Hester) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 8, 2024
js/lgc Third Reader - March 1, 2024

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