

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 730 (Senator Hafer)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Referred to Environmental Matters

Black Bears - Damage to Crops and Livestock - Compensation

This amended bill establishes a Black Bear Damage Reimbursement Fund within the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to reimburse farmers for bear damage to agricultural products and livestock under specified conditions. The fund consists of proceeds from the sale of Black Bear Conservation Stamps or Decals (\$5) and any other gifts or grants.

If there is not sufficient funds to satisfy all qualifying claims, an equal percent of each claim must be paid. Subject to available funding, a person may not be reimbursed for an amount less than \$200 or more than \$3,000 per year.

The bill is effective July 1, 1996.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Indeterminate increase in special fund revenues and expenditures.

Local Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: The amount of revenues generated would depend upon the number of stamps sold, and if any other gifts or grants are received. For example, if 1,000 Black Bear Conservation Stamps or Decals are sold, special fund revenues would increase by \$5,000. This would be offset by special fund expenditures on reimbursements for black bear damage.

In addition, there will be a minimal increase in administrative costs such as printing the stamps or decals; it is assumed that these expenditures would be paid for out of the fund as is the case with other DNR special fund activities.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of

Agriculture, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 1, 1996

ncs Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 21, 1996

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