

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1387 (Delegate Frush)
Environmental Matters

Wildlife Rehabilitation - Funding

This bill establishes a Wildlife Rehabilitation Fund in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The fund consists of license and permit fees for wildlife rehabilitators, available moneys transferred from other DNR funds, and private and public funds raised by the department for this purpose. The department must make grants and loans from the fund to qualified wildlife rehabilitators.

This bill is effective July 1, 1997.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Assuming that the number of wildlife rehabilitators remains constant and a \$10 permit fee is imposed, special fund revenues would increase by \$1,500 per year due to fee collections and special fund expenditures would increase by the same amount.

Local Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: The Department of Natural Resources could handle the requirements of this bill with existing staff. However, there would be a minimal increase in special fund expenditures for administrative costs incurred through grant-making and possible fund-raising activities. For fiscal 1997, administrative expenditures would increase by approximately \$1,000 due to travel, communications, and other operating expenditures such as printing relevant forms; this estimate reflects a 90-day start-up delay. Out-year expenditures increase slightly due to inflationary adjustments and full-year operations. It is assumed that all remaining funds will be distributed to rehabilitators as loans and grants.

DNR advises that there are currently 150 licensed rehabilitators, and that it would charge a

\$10 permit fee under this bill. Revenues would therefore increase by approximately \$1,500 per year. Additional revenues may be generated if fund-raising efforts are successful, and through repayments if any funds are distributed as loans.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 7, 1996
ncs

Analysis by: Kim E. Wells
Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 841-3710
(301) 858-3710