

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 62 (Senator Hafer)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Referred to Environmental Matters

Hunter Safety Instructors - Complimentary Consolidated Hunting License

This amended bill requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to issue complimentary consolidated hunting licenses to all interested authorized hunting safety instructors with at least five years of service and who have taught two hunter safety courses during the preceding fiscal year.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenue decrease of \$7,100 in FY 1998. Federal fund revenue decrease of \$1,500 in FY 1998. Future year losses are assumed to remain constant through FY 2002. Expenditures would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002
SF Revenues	(\$7,100)	(\$7,100)	(\$7,100)	(\$7,100)	(\$7,100)
FF Revenues	(\$1,500)	(\$1,500)	(\$1,500)	(\$1,500)	(\$1,500)
Net Effect	(\$8,600)	(\$8,600)	(\$8,600)	(\$8,600)	(\$8,600)

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

Note: Additional revenue loss could occur in the long-term if the complimentary license encourages additional individuals to become hunting safety instructors.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal effect on small businesses as discussed below.

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: DNR reports that there are currently 371 individuals that would qualify for complimentary hunting licenses under this bill. Of this amount, approximately 70 are senior citizens that qualify for a lifetime consolidated hunting license or a special annual license.

These individuals have presumably already paid their one-time fee for the lifetime license, or pay a nominal amount each year (\$1.25) for an annual license. Therefore, special fund revenues would decrease by \$7,076.50 for the 301 individuals who would have otherwise paid \$24.50 for a hunting license. (This assumes that 99% of individuals purchase licenses through external vendors who retain a \$1 fee.)

While additional individuals might qualify in the out-years for this license once they meet the five-year requirement, it is assumed that this would be balanced out by individuals that “retire” from the program. In addition, the bill could encourage more individuals to become hunting safety instructors than would otherwise; however, due to the five-year service requirement revenue loss from this effect would not occur until after fiscal 2002.

DNR receives federal funding in accordance with the number of hunting licenses that are sold; this is contingent on the State receiving payment for these licenses. For each consolidated hunting license sold the State receives approximately \$5 in federal funds. Therefore, \$1,505.00 in federal funds would not be received. Additional federal funds could be lost for those senior citizens currently purchasing annual consolidated hunting licenses; however, DNR anticipates that federal rule changes would prevent the receipt of federal funds for these particular licenses in the near future regardless of this legislation.

Small Business Effect: Small businesses that sell hunting licenses could be minimally impacted under this bill. Businesses receive \$1.00 for each full-price consolidated license that they sell. However, this revenue loss would not be felt by any one business but would be spread out among businesses throughout the State. In addition, some of these individuals would have purchased their hunting licenses from larger retail outlets or directly from DNR. For the 301 full-price consolidated licenses sold, up to \$301.00 in revenue loss could occur.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 17, 1997

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