

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 510 (Chairman. Environmental Matters Committee)  
(Departmental - Natural Resources)

Environmental Matters

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**Natural Resources - Sport Fishing and Hunting Licenses - Sales Agents**

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This departmental bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to charge a fee not exceeding \$100 to retail agents who sell angler's licenses or hunting licenses on consignment. Under current law, these agents are required to provide a bond as a form of security for payment to DNR for licenses sold. All funds derived from the annual fee are to be deposited into a special account to pay for replacement, maintenance, repair, and enhancement of the computer hardware and software that will be provided to agents for utilization in the angler's or hunting license sales program.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Special fund revenues could increase by \$35,000 in FY 1999 and by \$38,000 annually thereafter. Indeterminate impact on expenditures.

**Local Effect:** Minimal. There are three county departments that sell sport licenses. Each will be required to pay the \$100 annual fee.

**Small Business Effect:** The Department of Natural Resources has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Background:** DNR is in the process of installing a new computerized licensing system, the Customer Oriented Information Network (COIN), for selling sport licenses in the place of business of each of the estimated 380 retail agents that sell sport licenses. The COIN system is expected to be operational by December 1998 and will make purchasing sport licenses

easier and will result in less paperwork for DNR and the agents that sell sport licenses.

**State Effect:** The bill allows DNR to determine whether retail agents purchase a bond or pay a \$100 fee. DNR advises that it intends to charge all retail agents the \$100 fee in lieu of requiring the agents to post a bond. In fiscal 1999, DNR estimates that it will collect \$35,000 in revenue from the 380 retail agents that sell sport licences. This estimate is based on the amount of money that the agents would have paid in bond premiums. Future year revenues of \$38,000 are expected because after fiscal 1999, DNR will charge each agent a \$100 fee.

All funds collected from this fee will be deposited into a special account to pay annual maintenance and repair costs associated with operating the COIN system. It is difficult to determine at this time whether or not the anticipated revenue generated from the COIN system will be enough to cover the annual maintenance and repair costs.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 16, 1998  
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Analysis by: Mike Sanelli  
Reviewed by: John Rixey

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