

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 595 (Delegate Hutchins. *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

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**Fishery Management Plans - Blue Crab Harvesting - Exceptions**

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This bill exempts any owner of tidewater shoreline property in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Worcester, Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's, Somerset, and Wicomico counties from the regulations promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) pursuant to the Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan that limit to two the number of crab pots that can be set out for noncommercial purposes. The bill would allow four crab pots to be set.

This bill takes effect July 1, 1998.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential indeterminate loss of special fund revenue.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Effect:** In 1994 DNR promulgated regulations (COMAR 08.02.03.01J) providing that waterfront landowners may not set more than two crab pots for noncommercial purposes without obtaining a license. The license fee for the use of up to 50 crab pots is \$50. Special fund revenues would thus decrease to the extent that waterfront landowners set up to four crab pots. Any such decrease cannot be reliably estimated at this time, although it is assumed to be minimal.

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

Services

**Fiscal Note History:**

First Reader - March 8, 1998

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