

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 675 (Delegate Weir)

Environmental Matters

Hunting - Killing Wildlife by Accident or Mistake

This bill provides that a hunter who accidentally or mistakenly kills any wildlife that may not be hunted shall pay restitution to the State for the resource value of the wildlife as determined by the court, taking into account regulations established by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Hunters who accidentally or mistakenly kill any wildlife are not subject to having their hunting licenses revoked or to other penalties. If the killing was caused by carelessness or negligence, the hunter may be prosecuted for unlawful killing of wildlife and is subject to a fine of up to \$4,000 and/or imprisonment of up to one year. The bill also establishes a procedure to be followed by persons who accidentally or mistakenly kill any wildlife.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in revenues from restitution payments. Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues and expenditures due to the applicable penalty provision.

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in revenues and expenditures due to the applicable penalty provision.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

Background: DNR advises that there are several states with statutes which allow hunters who accidentally kill wildlife a means of reporting the violation and require restitution for the killing without a fine or revocation of his or her hunting license.

State Revenues: Based on data from states with similar provisions, DNR advises that approximately 10-20 accidental kills could be reported annually. The resource value of deer

and wild turkey in these states range from \$35-\$40 for deer and \$10-\$15 for wild turkey. (These are the species that make up the majority of the accidental kills in other states.) Therefore, any revenue increase is assumed to be minimal.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 10, 1998
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