

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 396 (Delegate Stup. *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Deer - Seasons and Bonus Stamps

This bill allows a hunter who purchases a bonus deer stamp to use the stamp in any of the three deer hunting seasons. The bill allows the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish by regulation the number of bonus deer stamps a hunter may purchase in each county. The bill also increases the fee for a nonresident bonus deer stamp from \$10 to \$25. Finally, the bill repeals the deer hunting restrictions in Dorchester County, making deer hunting seasons uniform throughout the State.

This bill takes effect July 1, 1998.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Indeterminate impact on Department of Natural Resources (DNR) special fund revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal impact on small businesses.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: Even though the bill more than doubles the fee for nonresident deer stamps, it is not expected to materially affect DNR deer stamp revenues. Currently, hunters are able to purchase two bonus stamps per season in addition to their license which results in the possibility of taking nine deer per year. However, stamps that are purchased for use in one season and not used cannot be carried over to another season. The bill allows stamps purchased for use in one of the three seasons (bow, muzzle loader, and firearms), and not used, to be used in another season. Due to the ability to carry over unused stamps to another

season, it is believed that fewer bonus stamps will actually be purchased, which would offset the revenue gain from the increased fee.

The average annual number of bonus deer stamps purchased in fiscal 1994 through 1997 was 36,500, of which approximately 4,500 were nonresident bonus stamps. Average annual revenue from the stamps was approximately \$205,000 (resident: 32,000 stamps x \$5 = \$160,000 / nonresident: 4,500 stamps x \$10 = \$45,000).

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources

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