

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 222 (Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee)
(Departmental - Natural Resources)

Environmental Matters

Special Chesapeake Bay Sport Fishing License - Pleasure Boat Decal

This departmental bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to issue the annual special Chesapeake Bay sport fishing license (pleasure boat decal) to nonresidents as well as residents, which when affixed permanently to a boat allows any person on the boat to fish in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The bill establishes a \$30 license fee for nonresidents.

This bill takes effect June 1, 1999.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenue increase of approximately \$194,550 annually beginning in FY 2000. No effect on expenditures.

Local Effect: None.

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.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: Chapter 602 of 1992 (HB 1241) restricted the sale of the special Chesapeake Bay sport fishing license, known as the “pleasure boat decal,” to boats registered in Maryland only. According to DNR, the average number of pleasure boat decals sold annually from 1988 to 1992, when individuals with boats registered in other states could receive the decal, was 39,584. The average number of decals sold annually from 1993 to 1997, was 33,099. This represents an average decline of 6,485 pleasure boat decals sold annually.

The bill allows individuals with boats registered in other states to once again purchase the pleasure boat decal. The decals would cost \$30, the same as for resident boats. Assuming that pleasure boat decal sales increase to their pre-1992 average, DNR could realize a revenue increase of approximately \$194,550 annually beginning in fiscal 2000. Fees from the pleasure boat decal are deposited in the Fisheries Research and Development Fund.

Operating costs associated with selling additional licenses and enforcement activities could be handled with DNR’s existing budgeted resources.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 10, 1999

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