

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 482 (Senator Hafer)
 Economic and Environmental Affairs

Hunter Safety Instructions - Complimentary Consolidated Hunting License

This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to issue complimentary consolidated hunting licenses to all interested authorized hunting safety instructors with at least five years of service and who have taught two hunter safety courses during the preceding fiscal year.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenue decrease of \$7,400 in FY 2000. Federal fund revenue decrease of \$1,500 in FY 1999. Future year losses are assumed to remain constant through FY 2004. Expenditures would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
SF Revenues	(\$7,400)	(\$7,400)	(\$7,400)	(\$7,400)	(\$7,400)
FF Revenues	(1,500)	(1,500)	(1,500)	(1,500)	(1,500)
Expenditures	0	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$8,900)	(\$8,900)	(\$8,900)	(\$8,900)	(\$8,900)

Note: () - decrease; GF - general funds; FF - federal funds; SF - special funds

Note: Additional revenue loss could occur in the long-term if the complimentary license encourages additional individuals to become hunting safety instructors.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: DNR reports that there are currently 371 individuals who would qualify for complimentary hunting licenses under this bill. It is estimated that in fiscal 1998 approximately 70 senior citizens qualified for a lifetime consolidated hunting license or a special annual license. These individuals have presumably already paid their one-time fee for the lifetime license, or pay a nominal amount each year (\$1.25) for an annual license. Therefore, special fund revenues could decrease by \$7,375 for the 301 individuals who would have otherwise paid \$24.50 for a hunting license.

While additional individuals might qualify in the out-years for this license once they meet the five-year requirement, it is assumed that this would be balanced out by individuals who “retire” from the program. In addition, the bill could encourage more individuals to become hunting safety instructors than would otherwise; however, due to the five-year service requirement the revenue loss from this effect would not occur until after fiscal 2004.

DNR receives federal funding in accordance with the number of hunting licenses that are sold; this is contingent on the State receiving payment for these licenses. For each consolidated hunting license sold the State receives approximately \$5 in federal funds. Therefore, about \$1,500 in federal funds would not be received as a result of 301 individuals being issued a complimentary license.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 1, 1999
dmm/jr

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