

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 63 (Chairman, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee)
(Departmental - Natural Resources)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Natural Resources - Tree Experts - Licensing

This departmental bill pertains to the licensing and examination of tree experts by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The bill (1) increases the application fee for a licensed tree expert exam from \$30 to \$50; (2) increases the fee for subsequent exams as a result of failure from \$20 to \$30; (3) increases the renewal fee for tree expert licenses from \$10 to \$30; and (4) provides that candidates who fail any subject that is part of the examination may be reexamined in only that subject at a subsequent examination held within one year of the date the candidate took the initial examination.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues increase by an estimated \$10,700 annually beginning in FY 2000. Expenditures are not affected.

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. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

Fiscal Analysis

State Effect: There are currently 436 licensed tree experts in the State with about 100 individuals taking the tree expert exam annually. Under the current fee structure for examinations and license renewals, DNR will realize approximately \$7,360 in special fund

revenue in fiscal 2000. As a result of the fee structure proposed by the bill, DNR would realize special fund revenue of approximately \$18,080 in fiscal 2000, an increase of \$10,720.

It should be noted that the amount of the revenue increase in any year could vary depending on the number of people taking the exam or renewing their license; however, it is assumed that the number of licensees, and by extension revenue, will remain fairly constant. DNR advises that between 1995 and the present the number of licensees in a year has been between 436 and 500. The nature of the industry is such that many are businesses consisting of 1 or 2 people operating primarily on weekends. Many of these businesses obtain the proper licenses but find it difficult (or do not want) to meet the insurance requirements for more than 1 year, which contributes to the high turnover rate.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 15, 1999
mld/ir Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 19, 1999

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