

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1371 (Delegate Guns)

Environmental Matters

Kent County - Sea Duck Zones - Regulation

This bill prohibits the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from adopting regulations restricting in a sea duck zone in Kent County the hunting of any wild waterfowl otherwise permitted to be hunted during the open season.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in special fund revenues related to the sale of additional hunting licenses and waterfowl stamps. Enforcement could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Having a due regard for the distribution, abundance, economic value, and breeding habits of wildlife, the Secretary of Natural Resources may adopt regulations to enlarge, extend, restrict, or prohibit hunting, possessing, selling, purchasing, shipping, carrying, transporting, or exporting wildlife. Hunting in sea duck zones is limited to sea ducks, as provided by the federally approved sea duck season. Hunting in gunning rig zones is open to all wild waterfowl. Hunting license fees range from \$6.50 to \$120.50. The fee for a State migratory wild waterfowl stamp is \$6.

State Fiscal Effect: In order to allow for hunting of any type of waterfowl in sea duck zones in Kent County, DNR would extend the gunning rig zone to encompass the existing sea duck

zone. Because hunting in sea duck zones is currently restricted to sea ducks, the bill could result in an increase in the number of hunting licenses and State waterfowl stamps issued by DNR. Accordingly, special fund revenues from license and stamp fees would increase. Legislative Services advises that although the number of additional licenses and stamps that would be sold as a result of the bill cannot be estimated, any increase in revenues is not anticipated to be significant. Enforcement could be handled with existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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cm/jr

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