

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

Senate Bill 332 (Senator Stoltzfus)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

---

Fishing - Regulation of Pound or Stake Nets

---

This bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to adopt regulations on the placement of pound or stake nets, including a limit of up to eight locations of pound nets that may be assigned to a licensee. It also repeals current provisions requiring specified information and certifications to be included in an application for a license to catch finfish using a net.

---

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill's changes could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal.

---

Analysis

**Current Law:** A person may not catch or attempt to catch finfish in the tidal waters of the State by the use of any net or device, with specified exceptions, unless the person possesses a valid license issued by DNR. An application for a license to catch finfish must state the exact location where any pound net is to be set. Each applicant shall certify whether the applicant previously had a license for nets or seines in the State, and if so, that the applicant complied with provisions governing the removal and renewal of stakes.

**Background:** In 1999, 131 individuals held licenses to catch finfish using a net. DNR maintains records of locations assigned to licensees to set and fish pound nets as well as the

number of pound nets set by licensees. In 1999, licensees set 427 pound nets. Current law and regulations govern the length of lines and nets, the distance between nets, the interval between nets, and the marking of lines and stakes, but do not address the number of locations or the placement of nets. Individuals can claim as many sites as they desire, although they do not necessarily set nets at all sites. DNR advises that under the bill's authority to adopt regulations, DNR expects to limit the number of sites per individual to eight.

**Small Business Effect:** To the extent that a licensed harvester is a small business, the regulations adopted as a result of the bill would have minimal impact. Only two license holders currently have more than eight sites, and these license holders do not necessarily set nets at all of their sites.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 11, 2000  
jir/jr Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 20, 2000

---

Analysis by: Lesley Frymier

Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510