

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1293 (Delegates Schisler and Eckardt)

Environmental Matters

Tidal Fish License - Apprenticeship - Exemptions

This bill exempts a person who has received a pardon after being incarcerated for a criminal offense from the apprenticeship requirements for a new tidal fish license. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must issue an authorization to such a person who makes application and pays any applicable fees. Any authorization received pursuant to the bill shall be renewable annually in the same manner as any other authorization.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2000 and sunsets December 31, 2000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements could be handled with existing budgeted resources. Because the number of individuals affected by the bill is expected to be minimal, Legislative Services advises that any impact on revenues is anticipated to be negligible.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must issue a license authorizing participation in a particular fishing activity to a person who has completed the requirements of an apprenticeship. Such requirements generally relate to the documentation of practical experience in a particular fishing activity. Tidal fish license authorization fees range from \$37.50 to \$300, not including any applicable surcharges. Licensees may renew any valid existing authorizations on their licenses annually.

Background: As of March 1999, DNR had issued 8,662 tidal fish licenses. Chapters 418

and 419 of 1998 (SB 679 and HB 1260) established an apprenticeship program to provide a mechanism for individuals to enter the commercial fishery after acquiring practical experience relating to commercial fishing activities. To date, DNR has issued 184 permits to participate in the apprenticeship program. DNR advises that 525 people are on the waiting list for the apprenticeship program.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1688 of 1994 would have exempted a person who has received a pardon after being incarcerated for a criminal offense from the two-year waiting period for a new tidal fish license. It was vetoed by the Governor.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 14, 2000
cm/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 29, 2000

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