

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

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

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Fish - Duplicate Angler's License and Trout Stamp

This departmental bill allows the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or an authorized agent of DNR to issue a duplicate trout stamp for a fee not exceeding \$1 if a person indicates that the trout stamp is lost and is on record for previously purchasing a trout stamp. The bill also modifies the existing procedures for obtaining a duplicate angler's license for a reduced fee by allowing DNR or an authorized agent of DNR to issue a duplicate license if a person indicates that the angler's license is lost and is on record for previously purchasing an angler's license.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Decrease in special fund revenue of approximately \$430 annually beginning in FY 2001 due to the establishment of a reduced fee for obtaining a duplicate trout stamp. Minimal decrease in revenue in FY 2000 due to the bill's effective date.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: DNR has determined that this bill will have minimal or no impact on small businesses (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: DNR can issue a duplicate angler's license for a fee not exceeding \$1 if the person submits an affidavit stating the date the license was issued, the license number and description, and the name of the person who issued it. A person seeking a duplicate angler's license cannot obtain a duplicate license from any entity other than DNR. No provisions

exist for obtaining a duplicate trout stamp for a reduced fee. If a person loses a trout stamp, the person must purchase a new stamp at the standard fee of \$5.

Background: DNR issues approximately 200,000 angler's licenses, 300 duplicate angler's licenses, and 72,000 trout stamps annually. Until recently, DNR tracked purchases manually. According to DNR, new technology that will be fully operational by June 2000 will allow DNR and authorized agents selling recreational fishing licenses to view records electronically and verify instantly whether or not a person previously purchased an angler's license or trout stamp.

State Fiscal Effect: DNR issues duplicate angler's licenses for approximately 0.15% of the licenses issued annually. DNR issues approximately 72,000 trout stamps annually. Assuming that approximately 0.15% of trout stamp holders will purchase duplicate stamps, DNR will issue approximately 108 trout stamps for a reduced fee of \$1 instead of the standard fee of \$5. This will result in a decrease in special fund revenue of approximately \$430 annually beginning in fiscal 2001. Because the bill takes effect June 1, 2000, special fund revenue will decrease by a negligible amount in fiscal 2000. All fees from the purchase of angler's licenses and trout stamps are paid into the Fisheries Research and Development Fund.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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ncs/jr

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