

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 473 (Senator Colburn)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Dorchester County - Duck Blind Sites - Licenses

This bill provides that in Dorchester County, only a riparian landowner owning 250 feet of continuous shoreline or a landowner's lessee, licensee, or assignee may erect and maintain a stationary blind or blind site.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenue decrease of approximately \$4,400 annually beginning in FY 2001. No effect on expenditures.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Pursuant to Chapter 703 of 1999 (HB 1187), which takes effect May 1, 2000, a Maryland resident or a riparian landowner may license riparian shoreline for the purpose of establishing an offshore blind site. In Kent and Queen Anne's counties, however, only a riparian landowner owning 250 yards of continuous shoreline or a landowner's lessee, licensee, or assignee may erect and maintain a stationary blind or blind site. All license fees are paid into the Wildlife Management and Protection Fund.

State Revenues: Under current law, each license fee of \$11 is paid to the clerk of the circuit court, of which \$10 is forwarded to DNR. One provision of Chapter 703 of 1999, which

takes effect May 1, 2000, would require a fee of \$20 for each blind site license paid directly to DNR. Another provision, however, does not change the fee or the procedure for obtaining a blind site license. For purposes of this estimate, it is assumed that effective May 1, 2000, the fee for each license will be \$20 paid directly to DNR. In 1999, DNR issued approximately 220 blind site licenses to non-riparian residents in Dorchester County. Because this bill would prohibit those individuals from erecting blind sites, they would no longer obtain blind site licenses from DNR. Accordingly, special fund revenues related to duck blind site licensing fees would decrease by an estimated \$4,400 annually (220 x \$20). This estimate assumes that the number of licenses that would be issued to non-riparian residents would remain the same.

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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