

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 347 (Delegate Schisler. *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Hunting - Duck Blinds - Site Licenses

This bill repeals current provisions related to duck blind site licensing requirements that are specific to Talbot County to make them consistent with licensing requirements for all other counties that are to take effect May 1, 2000. The bill also repeals specified provisions of current law regarding blind site licensing procedures in general to make them consistent with other provisions of current law that are to take effect May 1, 2000.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenue increase of approximately \$3,000 annually related to the collection of additional license fees from landowners in Talbot County. No effect on expenditures.

(in dollars)	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
SF Revenues	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
SF Expenditures	0	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - =indeterminate effect

Local Effect: Minimal reduction in revenues and expenditures in Talbot County.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Pursuant to Chapter 703 of 1999 (HB 1187), which takes effect May 1, 2000, several provisions outline the requirements for applying for, obtaining, issuing, and complying with duck blind site licenses for all counties except Talbot County.

State Fiscal Effect: Currently, landowners purchasing blind site licenses in Talbot County pay an \$11 fee to the clerk of the court for each application. Landowners are required to submit a separate application for each site. For each application, the county keeps \$1 and forwards \$10 to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). In 1999, there were approximately 500 blind site licenses issued in Talbot County, from which DNR received \$5,000 in revenues. Under this bill, landowners would file only one application, regardless of the number of sites, and pay a fee of \$20 directly to DNR. Assuming that there would be a reduction in the number of applications of approximately 20% (due to some landowners with multiple sites), the bill could result in an increase in special fund revenues of approximately \$3,000 annually (400 applications x \$20, or \$8,000, less 500 applications x \$10, or \$5,000). All license fees are paid into the Wildlife Management and Protection Fund.

Local Fiscal Effect: The clerk of the court in Talbot County will lose approximately \$500 in revenue from the issuing of licenses which would be offset by a reduction in expenditures associated with issuing licenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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