

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
 Revised

House Bill 809 (Delegate Edwards)

Environmental Matters

Angler's Licenses - Nontidal Waters - Nonresident License Fees

This bill alters the nontidal fishing license fees for nonresidents as follows: (1) for an annual license, from \$20 to \$20 *or* a fee equal to the fee charged a Maryland resident by the nonresident's home state for a similar license, whichever is greater; and (2) for a five-day license, from \$7 to \$7 *or* a fee equal to the fee charged a Maryland resident by the nonresident's home state for a similar license, whichever is greater. The bill clarifies that all fees collected from nontidal license fees may only be used for the scientific investigation, protection, propagation, and management of nontidal finfish. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must publicly report annually the amounts collected and the expenditures made under the section of law relating to nontidal angler's licenses.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenue net increase of an estimated \$6,400 annually beginning in FY 2001 from nontidal license fees. Special fund expenditure of \$7,000 in FY 2001 to update software for the computerized licensing system.

(in dollars)	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
SF Revenues	\$6,400	\$6,400	\$6,400	\$6,400	\$6,400
SF Expenditures	7,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$600)	\$6,400	\$6,400	\$6,400	\$6,400

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful. To the extent that the estimated 4,700 nonresident anglers who would no longer purchase nontidal licenses contribute to small businesses such as bait and tackle shops, restaurants, and motels, the bill could result in a

decrease in revenues for those entities.

Analysis

Current Law: Any person 16 years old or older must secure an angler's license from the DNR to fish in the nontidal waters of the State. All nontidal license fees are paid into the Fisheries Management and Protection Fund. Effective May 1, 2000, unless otherwise provided, all fees may be used only for the scientific investigation, protection, propagation, and management of nontidal finfish.

Background: Nonresident licenses are reciprocal and valid for specified shared waterways between Maryland and neighboring states. Nontidal angler's licenses issued by Maryland, West Virginia, and Virginia are valid for the upper nontidal Potomac River. Nonresident nontidal licenses issued by Maryland and Pennsylvania are valid for fishing from boats on the waters of the shared Youghiogheny and Conowingo Reservoirs, and nonresident nontidal licenses issued by Maryland and West Virginia are valid on the shared Jennings-Randolph Reservoir. West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Virginia issue nonresident angler's licenses at fees of \$40, \$35, and \$30, respectively.

State Revenues: In the 1999 license year, DNR issued 16,166 nonresident nontidal angling licenses at \$20 each, generating revenues of approximately \$323,300. Under this bill, it is estimated that 55% or 8,900 of those individuals would renew their annual licenses at the reciprocal fee. The average reciprocal fee for surrounding states is \$35 each, thus revenue from renewals is estimated at \$311,500. Because the reciprocal fee is higher, it is estimated that 16% or 2,600 of the nonresidents that purchased annual licenses in 1999 would purchase the five-day license at \$7 each in lieu of the annual license, generating an additional \$18,200 in revenues. Assuming the total number of licenses remains the same, special fund revenues are estimated to increase by \$6,400 annually beginning in fiscal 2001.

State Expenditures: In fiscal 2001 only, expenditures will increase by an estimated \$7,000 to modify the computer software for the point-of-sale license system. DNR could report annually, as required by the bill, using existing budgeted resources.

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 29, 2000
drg/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 21, 2000

Analysis by: Lesley Frymier

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