

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1341 (Delegate McClenahan, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Department of Natural Resources - Limited Fishing Guide License

This bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to issue a limited fishing guide license that allows a license holder to guide: (1) anglers in up to three boats or vessels that have one or two occupants and are propelled by oars or paddles; (2) up to ten anglers fishing from shore or on foot in the water; or (3) any number of anglers who are participating in an educational or recreational program sponsored by a State, local, or municipal government and who are fishing from shore or on foot in the water.

The bill takes effect January 1, 2002.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Because the number of guides that would choose to obtain a limited license is not anticipated to be significant, the bill would not materially affect State operations or finances. DNR could meet the bill's reporting requirements with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: A person may not accept any consideration for services as a fishing guide licensed pursuant to the bill unless the person and all persons being guided possess an angler's license or a Chesapeake Bay sport fishing license. A recreational angler

under the guidance of a limited fishing guide in tidal waters may not catch or possess striped bass in specified tidal waters and, from March 1 through May 31, catch or attempt to catch striped bass in spawning areas and rivers.

The bill specifies a license fee of \$50 for residents and \$100 for nonresidents. All fees must be used for monitoring the freshwater fishery. DNR must publicly report the amounts collected under the bill each year.

Current Law: Except for specified persons, any person who accepts direct or indirect consideration for providing services as a fishing guide in tidal waters must obtain a license. For a tidal fish license, the fee is \$50 for a resident and \$100 for a nonresident. The fee for a master fishing guide license is an additional \$50 per vessel. Chapter 286 of 1999 authorized DNR to issue a license to individuals to provide services as a fishing guide in nontidal freshwater. The fee for obtaining a nontidal freshwater fishing guide license is \$20 for residents and \$50 for nonresidents. Chapter 688 of 2000 established a new category of freshwater fishing guide license that allows a licensee to operate in nontidal freshwater *and* specified tidal water areas. The fee for the new category of license is \$50 for residents and \$100 for nonresidents.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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