

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 73 (Chairman, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee)

(Departmental – Natural Resources)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

Fish - Commercial Tidal Fish License Transfers

This departmental bill requires any person to whom a commercial tidal fish license has been temporarily transferred to have in possession the approved application to transfer the license whenever engaged in any licensed activity. The bill also requires a person to whom such a license has been temporarily transferred to allow any police officer to inspect any such application.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has determined that this bill will have minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: DNR may approve a temporary transfer of a tidal fishing license for not less than 30 days and not more than 90 days. A licensee or any person to whom a licensee has transferred a license must have in possession the tidal fish license whenever engaged in any licensed activity. Possession of an approved application for a temporary transfer is not required. The licensee or any person to whom a licensee has transferred a

license must allow any police officer to inspect the license, to conduct searches, and to inspect books, statements, and accounts as authorized by current law.

Background: As of March 1999, DNR had issued 8,662 tidal fish licenses. Chapters 418 and 419 of 1998 (SB 679 and HB 1260) established an apprenticeship program to provide a mechanism for individuals to enter the commercial fishery after acquiring practical experience relating to commercial fishing activities. There were more than 800 temporary transfers of commercial tidal fish license authorizations in the 1999-2000 license year. According to DNR, because temporary transfers are not computerized and because possession of an approved application for a temporary transfer is not required, enforcement of such transfers is difficult.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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