

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 445 (Delegate O'Donnell)

Environmental Matters

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Natural Resources - Tidal Fish License - Exemption for Live Bait Harvesters and Dealers

This bill exempts a person who catches or sells specified finfish for use as live bait from obtaining a commercial tidal fish license from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The bill also requires DNR to conduct a study of bait fish harvested and sold in the State to determine the impact of harvesting bait fish on the Chesapeake Bay. DNR must report on the study to the General Assembly by December 1, 2002 and include recommendations for the management or regulation of bait fish harvested or sold in the State.

The bill sunsets September 30, 2003.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditure increase of \$8,000 in FY 2002 to conduct the study and prepare the required report. The bill's provision exempting live bait harvesters and dealers codifies current practice, so revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	8,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$8,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: A person may not buy, sell, ship, transport, or otherwise deal in finfish unless the person is licensed by DNR. The following persons are not required to obtain a license: (1) a person licensed by DNR to catch finfish for sale; (2) a retail market, restaurant, or other establishment where finfish are sold or served to ultimate customers, and not for resale; and (3) a person who buys finfish for personal use or consumption.

State Expenditures: DNR advises that it would conduct a one-time mail and return survey of approximately 600 fishing license agents to estimate the number of live bait fish harvested and sold in the State. General fund expenditures could increase by \$8,000 in fiscal 2002. This estimate includes \$3,800 in printing and mailing costs, \$3,000 in data analysis and report preparation, and \$1,200 in contractual services for telephone costs related to survey follow-up of nonrespondents.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation was introduced during the 2000 session as HB 1405. The bill received an unfavorable report by the House Environmental Matters Committee.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – February 7, 2001
ncs/jr Revised – House Third Reader – March 30, 2001
Revised – Enrolled Bill – April 25, 2001

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