

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 710 (Senator Colburn)
 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Senior Lifetime Sport Fishing License and Fund

This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish a resident consolidated senior lifetime sport fishing license to be issued to Maryland residents beginning in the calendar year in which they become 65 years of age. The bill specifies a one-time license fee of \$25. The bill also establishes a Senior Lifetime Sport Fishing License Fund as a continuing, nonlapsing fund in DNR. Any money received from any senior lifetime sport fishing license must be credited to the fund.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenue increase of \$354,600 in FY 2003 from the sale of lifetime licenses instead of the sale of annual licenses. Future year revenue reductions reflect fee revenue from additional lifetime licenses sold less the loss in fee revenue associated with the current annual license. DNR could handle the bill's requirements with existing budgeted resources.

| (in dollars) | FY 2003 | FY 2004 | FY 2005 | FY 2006 | FY 2007 |
|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| SF Revenue | \$354,600 | (\$31,000) | (\$31,000) | (\$31,000) | (\$31,000) |
| Expenditure | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Net Effect | \$354,600 | (\$31,000) | (\$31,000) | (\$31,000) | (\$31,000) |

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The license shall be valid for the duration of the lifetime of the holder. A license holder may: (1) engage in angling on the nontidal waters of the State without holding an angler's license; (2) engage in angling for trout on the nontidal waters of the State without holding a trout stamp; and (3) fish for finfish in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries without holding a Chesapeake Bay sport fishing license. The license may be obtained from DNR or from any authorized agent of DNR. As compensation, an agent retains 50 cents for each license issued. Money may be withdrawn from the fund only as an annual appropriation, and may be used only for the protection, management, investigation, or replenishment of tidal or nontidal finfish for the enhancement of recreational fishing.

Current Law: There is a resident consolidated senior sport fishing license issued to residents beginning in the calendar year in which they attain the age of 65. A resident consolidated senior sport fishing license is valid for not more than one year and expires on December 31. A holder of a resident consolidated senior sport fishing license may engage in angling on the nontidal waters of the State without holding an angler's license, engage in angling for trout on the nontidal waters of the State without holding a trout stamp, and fish for finfish in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries without holding a Chesapeake Bay sport fishing license. The annual fee for the license is \$5. The license may be obtained from DNR or from any authorized agent of DNR. As compensation, an agent retains 50 cents for each license issued. Fees obtained from the license are paid into the Fisheries Management and Protection Fund.

State Fiscal Effect: DNR reports that 17,730 resident consolidated senior sport fishing licenses were issued during the 2001 license season. The annual license fee for that license is \$5 (agents sell 97.5% of these and retain 50 cents for each license they sell). Accordingly, current fee revenues total approximately \$80,000. Under this bill, eligible individuals could instead purchase a lifetime license for a one-time fee of \$25 (agents would retain 50 cents for each license sold). Assuming all individuals opt to purchase a lifetime license instead of renewing or purchasing the annual license, special fund revenues would increase by an estimated \$354,600 in fiscal 2003 (\$434,600 from the sale of lifetime licenses, less \$80,000 from the sale of annual licenses that would no longer be sold). Beginning in fiscal 2004, special fund revenues would decrease by an estimated \$31,000 annually. This estimate reflects the sale of an additional 2,000 lifetime licenses (\$49,000) less the loss in revenue associated with the sale of annual licenses (\$80,000). The estimates assume that agents will continue to sell approximately 97.5% of the licenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Identical legislation was introduced as SB 559 of 2001. The bill received an unfavorable report by the Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee. Similar legislation was introduced as HB 1044 of 2001. The bill passed the House with amendments but received an unfavorable report by the Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 28, 2002
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