

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 813

(Senator Astle)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

Natural Resources - Angler's Licenses

This bill increases the fees for angler's licenses as follows: (1) for a resident license, from \$10 to \$10.50; (2) for a resident short-term license (valid for five days), from \$7 to \$7.50; (3) for a nonresident license, from \$20 to \$20.50; and (4) for a nonresident short-term license (valid for five days), from \$7 to \$7.50. The bill also establishes a nonresident short-term license valid for three days and sets a fee of \$5 or a fee equal to the fee charged a Maryland resident by the nonresident's home state for a similar license. Finally, the bill increases the fee an agent keeps for issuing a license from \$0.50 to \$1, modifies the process agents must follow, and repeals specified application requirements.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2002.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues would increase by \$1,800 in FY 2002 and \$14,200 annually thereafter as a result of establishing the new license and increasing the fees for existing licenses. Expenditures would not be materially affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
SF Revenue	\$1,800	\$14,200	\$14,200	\$14,200	\$14,200
Expenditure	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Effect	\$1,800	\$14,200	\$14,200	\$14,200	\$14,200

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill provides that an agent who issues a license will no longer have to fill out specified information on stubs, collect money monthly, and mail the stubs and money to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on the first day of the succeeding month. Instead, an agent will be required to enter the name and address of the licensee and transmit the collected money to DNR as prescribed by DNR. The bill also repeals the requirement that an application must contain the applicant's age and height.

Current Law: Except under specified conditions, any person 16 years old or older must obtain an angler's license to fish in the nontidal waters of the State. License fees are as follows: (1) for a resident angler's license, \$10; (2) for a short-term resident angler's license, valid for five consecutive days from the date of issuance, \$7; (3) for a nonresident angler's license, \$20 or a fee equal to the fee charged a Maryland resident by the nonresident's home state for a similar license; (4) for a short-term nonresident license, valid for five consecutive days from the date of issuance, \$7 or a fee equal to the fee charged a Maryland resident by the nonresident's home state for a similar license. All fees collected by DNR may only be used for the scientific investigation, protection, propagation, and management of nontidal finfish.

An application for an angler's license must contain the applicant's name, age, height, and place of residence. An agent who issues a license must fill out the name and address of the licensee on a stub attached to the license blank and detach the stub. The stubs and money, collected every month, must be mailed to DNR on the first day of the succeeding month. As compensation, the agent retains \$0.50 for each license issued.

Background: According to DNR, license revenue from the sale of resident, five-day resident, nonresident, and five-day nonresident angler's licenses totals approximately \$171,400 annually. Agents issue approximately 97.5% of all licenses.

State Revenues: Special fund revenues will increase by an estimated \$14,200 annually beginning in fiscal 2003 as a result of establishing the new nonresident three-day angler's license and increasing the fees for existing angler's licenses by \$0.50 each. DNR advises that approximately 13% of fishing licenses are sold in the month of June; because the bill takes effect June 1, 2002, special fund revenues will increase by an estimated \$1,800 in fiscal 2002.

New Nonresident Three-Day License

DNR advises that under the bill, an estimated 3,000 nonresidents will purchase the new three-day license. Assuming the applicable fee is the fee set out in the bill (\$5 per license), and assuming agents continue to sell approximately 97.5% of licenses, special

fund revenues will increase by an estimated \$12,100 (agent revenues will increase by \$2,900 annually). Special fund revenues could be less to the extent that any of the new three-day licenses are purchased in lieu of existing licenses.

Increasing Existing Fees

By increasing the fees for the resident, resident five-day, nonresident, and nonresident five-day angler's licenses by \$0.50 each, special fund revenues will increase by an estimated \$2,100 annually beginning in fiscal 2003. This estimate is based on annual license sales of approximately \$171,400 and assumes that agents will continue to issue 97.5% of angler's licenses. (Agent revenues will increase by an estimated \$83,600 annually.)

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1149 (Delegates Edwards and Crouse) – Environmental Matters.

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

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