

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1107

(Delegate Weir)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Disease Prevention - Permits - Turtles

This bill clarifies that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) may not restrict a person from breeding, raising, keeping, or possessing turtles if the person has obtained a permit to do so issued by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill clarifies current law.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: DHMH may prohibit the importing, selling, trading, purchasing, bartering, breeding, raising, keeping, or possessing of any animals found to be dangerous to human health and safety. This does not apply to domestic cats, dogs, or ferrets or to animals used for agricultural purposes, scientific purposes, educational purposes, or public exhibitions.

DNR issues scientific collecting permits to take certain native species from the wild. Individuals who wish to possess native turtles generally apply for a reptile and amphibian permit. The turtles must have a carapace length of at least four inches. The permit may be issued only after it is determined that doing so will not be detrimental to the protection

and conservation of native reptiles or amphibians. A permit costs \$25 and is valid from the date of issuance until the following December 31.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 2002
lsc/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 28, 2002

Analysis by: Lisa A. Daigle

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510