

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1108 (Delegate Weir)
 Environmental Matters

Natural Resources - Hunting Licenses - Conservation Stamps

This bill establishes a hunting conservation stamp to be purchased by specified individuals. The fee for the annual stamp is \$2.25.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues will increase by \$26,300 annually in fee revenue from the new conservation stamp. Special fund expenditures will increase by \$15,000 in FY 2003 only to upgrade the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) computer licensing system.

(in dollars)	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
SF Revenue	\$26,300	\$26,300	\$26,300	\$26,300	\$26,300
SF Expenditure	15,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	\$11,300	\$26,300	\$26,300	\$26,300	\$26,300

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 requires residents who purchase a senior consolidated lifetime license or a senior consolidated annual license to also purchase an annual conservation stamp. A person who is not required to purchase any type of individual hunting stamp to hunt deer, wild waterfowl, game birds, or mammals in the State must purchase a conservation stamp to hunt deer, wild waterfowl, game birds, or mammals in the State.

Current Law: There are several different types of hunting licenses in Maryland. A resident consolidated license enables the purchaser to hunt all legal game birds and mammals (except for waterfowl) without the purchase of additional stamps. Residents may purchase a senior consolidated license, valid for the remainder of the purchaser's life, beginning in the year in which they turn 65. The fee for the senior consolidated lifetime license is \$12.50. Residents may purchase a senior consolidated annual license beginning in the calendar year in which they turn 65. The fee for the senior consolidated annual license is \$1.25.

DNR issues several types of individual hunting stamps required for specified hunters, such as deer stamps, bow and arrow stamps, black powder (muzzleloader) stamps, bonus deer stamps, and migratory wild waterfowl stamps. Fees from stamps are generally paid into the Wildlife Management and Protection Fund. Agents keep \$0.50 for each individual hunting stamp issued.

An owner of farmland and the owner's spouse, children, and children's spouse are not required to obtain a hunting license to hunt on the farmland. A tenant and the tenant's spouse, children, and if residing on the farmland, children's spouse, are also exempt from obtaining a hunting license to hunt on farmland. Any resident serving in the armed forces of the United States under specified conditions, and any unarmed person participating in an organized foxhunt are also exempt from obtaining a license to hunt.

State Revenues: Special fund revenues will increase by an estimated \$26,297 annually in fee revenue from the conservation stamp established by the bill. This estimate assumes that a total of 14,920 conservation stamps would be sold each year. The estimated number of stamps that will be sold is based on the following information:

- approximately 1,820 seniors purchase the senior annual license each year;
- approximately 7,000 seniors that hold a lifetime license still actively hunt; and
- approximately 6,100 individuals who hunt are exempt from current license fees pursuant to current law.

Under this bill, those individuals would be required to obtain the conservation stamp at a fee of \$2.25. The estimate assumes the number of stamps sold would remain constant in the out-years and that agents will issue approximately 97.5% of the stamps sold. (Pursuant to current law, agents keep \$0.50 for each individual hunting stamp sold; under this bill, agents would retain an estimated \$7,273 annually).

State Expenditures: Special fund expenditures would increase by an estimated \$15,000 in fiscal 2003 only for DNR to make changes to its computer licensing system to reflect the new stamp.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 2002
lsc/cer

Analysis by: Lesley Frymier

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