

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2003 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 103 (Chairman, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee)  
(By Request – Departmental – Natural Resources)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

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**Migratory Game Bird Stamps**

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This departmental bill modifies specified requirements relating to migratory game bird stamps issued by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Specifically, the bill repeals requirements relating to the physical characteristics of the stamp and repeals the requirement that the stamp be affixed to the hunting license. Instead, a person hunting migratory game birds must carry a printed receipt from DNR showing proof of purchase.

The bill takes effect August 1, 2003.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** This bill would not materially affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** DNR has determined that this bill will have minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A person hunting migratory game birds must first obtain a Maryland migratory game bird stamp. The fee for the stamp is \$9. The stamp must be:

- 2 inches in length and 1 3/8 inches in width, or of another size consistent with similar stamps issued by nearby states;

- printed on white, dry-gummed 50-pound English finish paper, or on paper of similar quality; and
- perforated on all sides, with an attached tab.

The stamp must be affixed to the resident or nonresident hunting license of the person to whom the stamp is issued. If the person is entitled to hunt without a license, the person must carry the stamp. The recipient must sign the stamp in ink.

**Background:** DNR advises that the requirement for a physical stamp hinders the issuance of licenses through the Internet and is an administrative burden on agents that issue sport licenses. According to DNR, with the existence of electronic licensing, all other stamps issued by DNR are issued only as printed receipts that must be carried by the purchaser as proof of purchase. DNR would like to include the issuance of sport licenses as part of its e-commerce initiatives. Without a change to the statute, however, hunters purchasing a migratory game bird stamp via the Internet would have to wait for a physical stamp to be mailed to them. DNR advises that if this bill passes, it will continue to print stamps and make them available to collectors and hunters who wish to receive a physical stamp.

**State Expenditures:** In fiscal 2002 DNR printed 63,000 migratory game bird stamps at a total cost of \$5,360. This bill will result in a minimal cost savings to DNR, as fewer migratory game bird stamps will have to be printed. However, DNR advises that it will mail stamps to those hunters desiring a physical stamp, so any savings will likely be offset by an increase in mailing costs.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 24, 2003  
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