

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 389

(Delegate Edwards)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Natural Resources - Complimentary Hunting Licenses - Hunting Stamps

This bill provides that a complimentary hunting license issued by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must include all applicable hunting stamps, except for migratory game bird stamps and bonus deer stamps.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill codifies current practice.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Except under specified conditions, a person may not hunt or attempt to hunt game birds and mammals in the State without a license. DNR issues complimentary licenses to: (1) Maryland residents under the age of 16 years who have successfully completed a hunter safety course; and (2) under specified conditions, hunter safety course instructors. To hunt during certain deer seasons, to hunt waterfowl, or to be able to take one additional antlered deer, a hunter is required to purchase individual hunting stamps. Individual hunting stamps include the bow and arrow stamp, the black powder stamp, the Maryland migratory game bird stamp, and the bonus antlered deer stamp. Stamp fees are generally paid into the Wildlife Management and Protection Fund.

Background: Chapter 177 of 2002 significantly modified the hunting license structure within DNR. Previously, complimentary licenses were considered “consolidated licenses.” With a consolidated license, a licensee was not required to purchase black powder or bow stamps. Chapter 177, in modifying the license structure, abolished the consolidated license, and, therefore, required a holder of a complimentary license to purchase black powder and bow stamps. DNR advises that this was a technical oversight and that the Secretary of DNR instructed DNR’s Licensing and Registration Service to issue complimentary bow and black powder stamps to persons with a complimentary license.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 421 (Senator Hafer) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

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ncs/jr

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