

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1061 (Delegates Cluster and Boteler)
 Environmental Matters

Natural Resources - Maryland Saltwater Fishing License - Application to Tidal Waters

This bill renames the Chesapeake Bay sport fishing license as the Maryland saltwater fishing license and expands the license to all Maryland tidal waters.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenue increase of \$133,900 in FY 2006 and \$178,500 annually thereafter due to the expansion of the existing license to all Maryland tidal waters. Expenditures would not be materially affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
SF Revenue	\$133,900	\$178,500	\$178,500	\$178,500	\$178,500
Expenditure	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Effect	\$133,900	\$178,500	\$178,500	\$178,500	\$178,500

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Except under specified conditions, a person may not fish for finfish in the Chesapeake Bay or in its tributaries up to tidal boundaries without obtaining a Chesapeake Bay sport fishing license from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The annual fee for the license is \$6 for a 5-day license, \$9 for a resident, and \$14 for a

nonresident. Blind people are not subject to a fee. License fees are paid into the State Fisheries Research and Development Fund to be used for the replenishment, protection, and conservation of fish stocks caught by recreational fishermen, for enhancement of recreational fishing opportunities, and for research concerning tidal fishery resources; \$2 of each fee must be used by DNR for achieving the maximum federal fund apportionments, management assessment and sportfishing surveys, and angler outreach and public fishing information. Agents keep \$1 for each license issued. The license is valid for one year and expires on December 31.

Background: In 2002, Virginia modified its tidal fishing license to include coastal bays and the Atlantic Ocean. License sales increased by 0.4% for annual licenses, 61.4% for short-term licenses, and 7.8% for boat licenses.

State Revenues: Special fund revenues could increase by \$133,856 in fiscal 2006 (due to the bill's October 1, 2005 effective date) and \$178,474 annually thereafter due to the expansion of the existing license to the coastal bays and the Maryland waters of the Atlantic Ocean. This estimate is based on 2004 license data provided by DNR and assumes that the bill would result in a 0.4% increase in resident and nonresident annual bay sport licenses, a 61.36% increase in short-term bay sport licenses, and a 7.8% increase in pleasure boat decals. In 2004, 230,908 such licenses were sold. Under the bill, an estimated 10,805 additional licenses would be sold. The estimate assumes that agents would sell 97.5% of licenses.

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 1, 2005
mam/ljm

Analysis by: Lesley G. Cook

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510