

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 706 (Delegates Bozman and McIntosh)
 Environmental Matters Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Natural Resources - Seafood Landing License - Establishment

This bill establishes a seafood landing license to be issued by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The license applies to individuals not already licensed to commercially fish in the State in order to land fish caught in out-of-state waters. The annual license fee is \$150.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal increase in special fund revenues (\$1,800 annually beginning in FY 2006) due to the establishment of the new license. Any license revenue in FY 2005 would be negligible. Expenditures would not be materially affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
SF Revenue	\$0	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$1,800
SF Expenditure	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Effect	\$0	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$1,800

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

Local Effect: The bill would not directly affect local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Current law prohibits a person from buying, selling, shipping, transporting, or otherwise dealing in finfish unless the person is licensed by DNR, except under specified conditions. Current law also requires a seafood dealer's license for a person, other than a licensee dealing in his own catch, to buy, process, pack, resell, market, or otherwise deal in fish caught in the tidal waters of the State. License fees are deposited into the Fisheries Research and Development Fund. Individuals landing fish harvested in out-of-state waters are not required to be licensed.

Background: Currently, only individuals harvesting or dealing in finfish caught in State waters are licensed by the State. Licensees are required to report fishing activity to the State in order to provide for an accounting of the finfish harvested, landed, and sold in the State. Individuals that harvest from outside State waters are able to land and sell fish in Maryland without reporting the fishing activity to the State.

DNR advises that the level of the proposed fee is based on the fee for a seafood dealer's license and the fee a Maryland resident pays for a Virginia landing license, both of which are \$150.

State Revenues: According to DNR, an estimated 12 people land fish in Maryland that are not currently licensed by DNR. Assuming DNR issues 12 seafood landing licenses, special fund revenues would increase by \$1,800 annually beginning in fiscal 2006. It is assumed that any license revenue in fiscal 2005 (due to the bill's June 1, 2005 effective date) would be negligible.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 23, 2005
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