

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 Revised

House Bill 608

(Delegate Edwards)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Natural Resources - Nonresident Hunting Licenses - Types and Fees

This bill establishes a nonresident junior hunting license to be issued by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to nonresidents younger than 16. The fee is \$65. The bill also repeals the reciprocal licenses offered to residents of Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia; the fee for a nonresident regular license will now be \$130 regardless of the nonresident's state.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenue increase of an estimated \$283,000 annually. Expenditures would not be materially affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
SF Revenue	\$283,000	\$283,000	\$283,000	\$283,000	\$283,000
Expenditure	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Effect	\$283,000	\$283,000	\$283,000	\$283,000	\$283,000

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

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

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

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. There are several different

types of hunting licenses in Maryland. A nonresident of any age must purchase either a nonresident hunting license or a nonresident three-day hunting license. The fee for a nonresident basic hunting license is \$130; in the following specified states, the fee is the greater of the fee charged by the nonresident's home state for a similar basic hunting license or \$86 (Delaware), \$101 (Pennsylvania), \$120 (Virginia), and \$135 (West Virginia). The fee for a nonresident three-day hunting license is \$45. Agents keep \$1.50 for each nonresident hunting license and nonresident three-day license sold.

Hunting licenses are valid from August 1 through July 31 of each year. License fees are paid into the State Wildlife Management and Protection Fund and must be used only for the scientific investigation, protection, propagation, and management of wildlife.

State Revenues: Special fund revenues could increase by an estimated \$282,970 annually beginning in fiscal 2006 as a result of the repeal of the reciprocity provisions and the establishment of a junior license. This estimate is based on the number of licenses issued to nonresidents of all ages during the 2003-2004 hunting season (14,074). Under current law, the fees paid for those licenses ranged from \$86 to \$140, with the majority of individuals paying \$101 (the fee for nonresidents from Pennsylvania). Under the bill, the fee for a nonresident regular license would be \$130, and the fee for a nonresident junior license would be \$65. The estimate assumes that the number of licenses issued to nonresidents would not be affected by the changes in the applicable fees and would remain constant over time.

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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