

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 336 (Queen Anne's County Delegation)
Environmental Matters

Queen Anne's County - Authorization to Harvest Seafood and Engage in the Seafood Industry

This bill authorizes the Queen Anne's County Commissioners to adopt an ordinance, resolution, or regulation or take any other action the commissioners consider necessary to authorize a person to engage in specified activities related to the seafood industry and to harvest seafood. Before taking such action, the commissioners must hold a public hearing and obtain the written consent of the Secretary of Natural Resources.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to have a significant impact on State operations or finances.

Local Effect: Queen Anne's County reports that the bill will not materially affect local finances.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 134 of 2004 authorizes the Dorchester County Council to adopt an ordinance, resolution, or regulation or take any other action that the council considers necessary to authorize a person to engage in specified activities related to the seafood industry and to harvest seafood. Specific statutory authority pertaining to Queen Anne's County does not exist.

Background: According to the Maryland Department of Agriculture, there are 74 seafood processing plants employing 1,391 people and over 6,600 watermen who work the Chesapeake Bay. In 2003, 49.3 million pounds of seafood were landed at a dockside value of over \$49 million.

Small Business Effect: According to the Department of Business and Economic Development and the Maryland Department of Agriculture, seafood is important to the economy of Queen Anne's County. To the extent this bill strengthens the seafood industry in the county, small businesses would be positively impacted.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Queen Anne's County, Maryland Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Business and Economic Development, Department of Legislative Services

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