

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 128 (Chairman, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee) (By Request – Departmental – Natural Resources)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Environmental Matters

Department of Natural Resources - Collection Certificates

This departmental bill authorizes the Secretary of Natural Resources to grant certificates to any properly accredited person for the collection of specified fisheries-related items for educational purposes. The bill also authorizes the Secretary to adopt regulations governing the issuance, revocation, term, and conditions of collection certificates.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill codifies current practice; accordingly, the number of collection certificates issued is not anticipated to increase as a result of the bill.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: The Secretary is authorized to grant certificates to any properly accredited person for the collection of fish, fish eggs, crustaceans, or mollusks for scientific purposes only. To obtain a certificate, the applicant must submit proof of

necessity and pay a \$25 fee to DNR. Certificate fees are paid into the State Fisheries Management and Protection Fund.

Background: Under current law, the Secretary is authorized to grant collection certificates for scientific or educational purposes to collect wildlife; however, the authority to grant collection certificates for fisheries-related items is more restrictive and does not specifically include educational purposes. DNR advises that it receives 80 to 100 requests each year for permits to collect fish, fish eggs, crustaceans, or mollusks. Approximately 35 to 40 of these requests are made by educational institutions and other entities for educational and outreach purposes. DNR advises that it currently issues scientific collection permits to such individuals even though statute does not explicitly allow for it. This bill would provide explicit authority for DNR to issue such permits.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 20, 2006
M/ljm

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