

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 271

(Senator Edwards, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

Hunting - Exemptions from License and Stamp Requirement

This bill allows the spouse of a child of a resident owner, tenant, or specified nonresident owner of farmland to qualify for a specified license and stamp exemption when hunting on the farmland if the spouse is eligible to purchase a junior resident or junior nonresident hunting license. The bill also allows both the spouse of a child and the child of a resident owner, tenant, or specified nonresident owner of farmland, if not eligible to purchase a junior resident or junior nonresident hunting license, to qualify for the exemption if either of them lives on the farmland, manages the farmland, or has worked on the farmland for 30 or more days during the prior 12-month period. Thus, certain adult children and/or their spouses could qualify for the exemption.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenue decrease each fiscal year beginning in FY 2008. Federal fund revenue decrease each fiscal year beginning in FY 2010. The extent to which revenues would decrease cannot be reliably estimated.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: A person generally may not hunt or attempt to hunt during open season any game birds or mammals in the State without a resident or nonresident hunter's license. Specified persons are not required to have a hunter's license, bow and arrow stamp, black powder stamp, or bonus antlered deer stamp in order to hunt on farmland. These exemptions include a resident owner or tenant of the farmland and the owner or tenant's spouse and child, and a nonresident owner and the owner's spouse and child, if

- the farmland is located in Maryland and an adjacent state;
- the owner's primary residence is on the parcel of farmland; and
- the adjacent state extends similar privileges to a resident of Maryland.

A "child" is defined to include a foster child, foster grandchild, grandchild, stepchild, and stepgrandchild. However, to qualify for the exemption, a child must be eligible to purchase a junior resident or junior nonresident hunting license.

Bow and arrow and black powder stamps must be purchased to hunt deer during bow and arrow and black powder season. A bonus antlered deer stamp allows a person to hunt one antlered deer for each stamp purchased in any of the open deer hunting seasons.

Background: Chapter 271 of 2006, among other things, required that a child be eligible to purchase a junior resident or junior nonresident hunting license in order to qualify for a license and stamp exemption. Junior resident and junior nonresident licenses are issued to persons younger than 16, with the written permission of a parent or guardian.

License fees are as follows:

- for a resident younger than 16, \$10.50;
- for a resident between 16 and 64 years, \$24.50;
- for a resident 65 years or older, \$5.00;
- for a nonresident younger than 16, \$65.00;
- for a nonresident 16 years or older, \$130.00; and
- for a nonresident three-day hunting license, \$45.00.

Bow and muzzleloader stamp fees are \$6 per stamp for a resident and \$25 per stamp for a nonresident. Bonus antlered deer stamps are \$10 per stamp for a resident and \$25 per stamp for a nonresident. All fees are paid into the Wildlife Management and Protection Fund.

In fiscal 2006, DNR issued approximately 120,000 hunting licenses and collected approximately \$6 million in associated fees.

State Revenues: Special fund revenues would decrease annually by an unknown amount beginning in fiscal 2008 due to additional persons being exempt from hunting license and stamp requirements. Federal fund revenue contingent on the number of hunting licenses issued would correspondingly decrease annually beginning in fiscal 2010.

For illustrative purposes, DNR estimates approximately 4,000 people are currently exempt from obtaining a license to hunt in Maryland and that the bill's changes could expand the pool of exempt persons by roughly 2,200 people (1,900 residents and 300 nonresidents). Assuming the pool of exempt persons is expanded by 2,200 people, special fund revenues could decrease annually by \$99,748 beginning in fiscal 2008. This estimate assumes the following:

- the exempt persons would otherwise purchase regular full-season licenses (residents at \$24.50 and nonresidents at \$130.00);
- 50% of the exempt persons would purchase bow and arrow and muzzleloader stamps (residents – 2 at \$6 each for a total of \$12 and nonresidents – 2 at \$25 each for a total of \$50); and
- 95% of licenses are sold by agents (who retain \$1.50 of the license fee and \$0.75 of each stamp fee).

Federal fund revenues would correspondingly decrease by approximately \$11,000 annually beginning in fiscal 2010 assuming 2,200 fewer hunting licenses are sold. DNR receives approximately \$5 in federal funds for each hunting license sold. The number of licenses sold for the 2007-2008 hunting year would not impact federal funding until fiscal 2010.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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