

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 442

(Southern Maryland Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Potomac River Fisheries Commission - Commissioner Compensation

This bill increases the compensation of the members of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) from \$25 per day, or portion of a day, spent performing the members' duties to up to \$250 per day or portion of a day. The total amount of compensation for each commissioner is capped at \$1,500 in any year. The bill does not apply to the compensation of Maryland members in office on the effective date of the bill but instead applies at the beginning of the next term of office.

The bill takes effect upon the enactment of similar legislation in Virginia.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not directly affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: PRFC consists of eight members: four from Maryland and four from Virginia. The Maryland members consist of the Secretary of Natural Resources (or the Secretary's designee) and three members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee, serves *ex officio* and the other Maryland members serve four-year terms. PRFC meetings are held at least once each quarter.

PRFC operates under the Potomac River Compact of 1958. Maryland ratified the compact in 1959 (Chapter 269). PRFC is generally authorized to adopt regulations regarding taking or catching of fish, crabs, oysters, and clams from the Potomac River. The rules and regulations are jointly enforced by the Maryland Natural Resources Police and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission Marine Police. PRFC may levy license fees and may impose an inspection tax. PRFC maintains a general fund that consists of license fee and inspection tax revenue, proceeds from the disposition of confiscated property, and funds appropriated by the state governments of Maryland and Virginia.

Background: The compensation of PRFC members has not changed since the Potomac River Compact of 1958 was ratified by Chapter 269 of 1959. The Department of Natural Resources currently distributes \$175,000 to PRFC annually.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 282 (Senators Middleton and Dyson) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

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