

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 443 (Senator Colburn, *et al.*)
 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Natural Resources - Hunting Licenses and Stamps - Exemptions

This bill exempts the spouse of a child of a resident owner, tenant, or specified nonresident owner of farmland from the requirement to obtain a license and stamp when hunting on farmland. The bill also repeals the requirement that a child be eligible to purchase a junior resident or junior nonresident hunting license in order to qualify for the exemption, which expands this and existing exemptions to adult children.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenue could decrease by \$495,600 annually beginning in FY 2008 due to an expected decrease in collection of hunting license and stamp fees. Federal fund revenue could decrease by \$32,500 annually beginning in FY 2010, due to decreased federal funding contingent on the number of hunting licenses issued.

(in dollars)	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
SF Revenue	(\$495,600)	(\$495,600)	(\$495,600)	(\$495,600)	(\$495,600)
FF Revenue	0	0	(32,500)	(32,500)	(32,500)
Expenditure	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Effect	(\$495,600)	(\$495,600)	(\$528,100)	(\$528,100)	(\$528,100)

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

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: The bill would reverse certain changes made by Chapter 271 of 2006, specifically those (1) that removed a child's spouse from the license and stamp exemption applicable to resident owners, tenants, and specified nonresident owners and their families; and (2) required that a child be eligible to purchase a junior resident or junior nonresident hunting license in order to qualify for the exemption. The bill also defined "child" to include a foster child, foster grandchild, grandchild, stepchild, and stepgrandchild.

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 revenue could decrease by \$495,606 each year due to the expansion of the farmland hunting exemption under the bill. Federal fund revenue could decrease by approximately \$32,500 each year beginning in fiscal 2010, due to decreased federal funding contingent on the number of hunting licenses issued.

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 6,500 people (4,000 residents and 2,500 nonresidents). The estimate of the potential special fund revenue decrease 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 (resident – 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 license fee, and \$0.75 of each stamp fee).

Federal fund revenues could decrease by \$32,500 annually beginning in fiscal 2010 based on DNR's estimate of 6,500 fewer hunting licenses 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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Analysis by: Scott D. Kennedy

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510