

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2007 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 334

(Delegate Weir, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

---

**Lifetime Complimentary Fishing Licenses - POWs and Disabled Veterans**

---

This bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to issue a nontransferable, lifetime complimentary sport fishing license to a Maryland resident who is a “former prisoner of war” or a 100% service connected disabled American veteran. The bill also makes an existing, annual complimentary nontidal angler’s license for those same former prisoners of war or disabled veterans a lifetime complimentary license.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2007.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Minimal decrease in special fund revenues. No effect on expenditures.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Generally, a Chesapeake Bay sport fishing license must be obtained from DNR, or an authorized agent of DNR, in order to fish for finfish in the bay or its tributaries up to tidal boundaries. The license fee for a resident is \$9; the fee for a nonresident is \$14. No fee is charged to resident and nonresident blind persons. Specified persons are not required to have a sport fishing license, including a Maryland resident on active duty with the U.S. armed forces, while on leave.

License fees are paid into the State Fisheries Research and Development Fund to be used for the replenishment, protection, and conservation of fish stocks caught by recreational fishermen, for enhancement of recreational fishing opportunities, and for research concerning tidal fishery resources. DNR must use \$2 of each fee for achieving the maximum federal fund apportionments, management assessment and sport fishing surveys, and angler outreach and public fishing information. Agents keep \$1 for each license issued. The license is valid for one year and expires on December 31.

DNR may issue an annual complimentary nontidal angler's license to a Maryland resident who is a former prisoner of war or 100% service connected disabled American veteran.

**Background:** DNR issued 86 complimentary nontidal angler's licenses to former prisoners of war and disabled veterans in 2006.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 19, 2007  
mam/ljm Revised - House Third Reader - March 20, 2007

---

Analysis by: Scott D. Kennedy

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