

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 414

(Senator Stoltzfus, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

Working Waterfront Commission

This bill establishes a Working Waterfront Commission to study and make recommendations regarding protecting and preserving Maryland's commercial fishing industry's access to public trust waters. Staffing is provided by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Legislative Services (DLS). A member of the commission may not receive compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations. Findings and recommendations are due to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 15, 2007.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2007 and terminates May 31, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for commission members and staffing costs for DNR and DLS are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: According to the Maryland Department of Agriculture, 75 seafood processing plants in the State employ 1,471 people and over 6,600 watermen work the Chesapeake Bay. In 2004, 49.5 million pounds of seafood were landed at a dockside value of over \$49 million.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 20, 2007
ncs/ljm

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