

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Revised

Senate Bill 84

(Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Natural
Resources)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

**Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission - Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission -
Membership**

This departmental bill staggers the membership terms of the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission and the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission within the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The bill also adds three members to both commissions, and requires that the composition of the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission reflect the geographic regions of the State where the commercial fishing industry operates.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances. Any expense reimbursements for the additional commission members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: DNR has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

Analysis

Current Law: Both the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission and the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission were created in 1973. Under current regulations, the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission is charged with advising the Director of DNR's Fisheries Service on matters referred to the commission by the director. The commission consists of up to 12 members with terms of two years.

The Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission, which provides DNR with advice on recreational fisheries matters, consists of 12 members with terms of four years. Members may be reappointed.

Background: Currently, appointments to the two commissions generally occur simultaneously. DNR advises that staggering appointments will allow for more overlap between old and new members and more stakeholders to participate in the advisory group process. With respect to the proposed expansion of the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission, DNR advises that an expanded membership will strengthen the commission's ability to reflect the increasing variety of constituents and interests involved in recreational fisheries management. The bill is largely a result of recommendations from the two affected advisory commissions.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 12, 2010
mlm/lgc Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 18, 2010

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission – Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission - Membership

BILL NUMBER: SB 84

PREPARED BY: Department of Natural Resources

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed legislation will have no impact on small business in Maryland.