

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1065 (Delegate Weir)
Environmental Matters

State Parks - Boat Launching Fees - Waiver

This bill authorizes an individual age 62 or older with valid identification to launch a boat at a State park without paying a fee.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Department of Natural Resources (DNR) special fund revenues decrease by \$9,400 in FY 2011 due to the fee waiver. Future year revenues reflect annualization, projected boat launch fees, and demographic adjustments. Expenditures are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
SF Revenue	(\$9,400)	(\$13,100)	(\$13,800)	(\$14,500)	(\$15,000)
Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$9,400)	(\$13,100)	(\$13,800)	(\$14,500)	(\$15,000)

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

Local Effect: To the extent the bill results in more individuals launching boats at State parks instead of local government-operated parks and boat launch sites, local revenues decrease.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: DNR's State parks generate a significant portion of their operating budgets through the collection of service charges. However, in recognition of the value and contributions of senior citizens, State park golden age passes are available to individuals age 62 or older. The golden age pass is a free, lifetime pass for specified

State park services and facilities and authorizes (1) free entry into all State parks that have service charges to enter; and (2) half price overnight camping on Sunday through Thursday, excluding holidays. Pass holders are still subject to boat launching fees. Standard boat launching fees are \$10, with some exceptions.

State Revenues: DNR special fund revenues decrease by \$9,362 in fiscal 2011, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2010 effective date. This estimate, which is based on total estimated boat launching fee revenue of approximately \$47,000 under current law, assumes:

- of the total amount of boat launching fee revenue, 25% is generated on weekdays and 75% is generated on weekends; and
- 60% of the weekday and 15.4% of the weekend boat launching fee revenue currently comes from individuals age 62 or older.

Future year revenue estimates reflect annualization, 4% annual growth in total boat launching fee revenue, and projected demographic growth and shifts.

Small Business Effect: To the extent the bill results in individuals launching boats at State parks instead of marinas and other small businesses, small business income from boat launch fees decreases.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 2010
ncs/lgc

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