

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 847

(Senator Kittleman, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

Hunting Licenses - Exemption for Disabled Armed Forces Members

This bill authorizes specified individuals to hunt on private property without a hunter's license, bow and arrow stamp, black powder stamp, or bonus antlered deer stamp. The exemption applies to individuals who are serving in the U.S. armed forces, have a service-connected disability, and possess valid military identification while hunting.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to have a significant effect on State operations or finances, since it is assumed that this bill will apply in a limited number of cases.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, the following individuals are not required to obtain a hunter's license, bow and arrow stamp, black powder stamp, or bonus antlered deer stamp while hunting on farmland:

- the resident owner of the farmland and the owner's spouse, child, and child's spouse;

- a tenant and the tenant's spouse, child, and child's spouse; and
- a nonresident owner of a parcel of farmland and the owner's spouse, child, and child's spouse if (1) the parcel of farmland is located in Maryland and an adjacent state; (2) the owner's primary residence is on the parcel of farmland; and (3) the adjacent state extends similar privileges to a resident of Maryland.

In addition, the following individuals are generally not required to obtain a hunter's license, bow and arrow stamp, black powder stamp, or bonus antlered deer stamp:

- any resident serving in the U.S. armed forces during the resident's leave period, if the resident possesses a copy of the official leave order while hunting; and
- any unarmed person participating in an organized foxhunt.

DNR may issue a lifetime complimentary hunter's license to a Maryland resident who certifies that the resident is a former prisoner of war or 100% service-connected disabled American veteran.

Hunting licenses cost \$24.50 for residents and \$130.00 for nonresidents; bow and arrow stamps cost \$6; black powder stamps cost \$16 for residents and \$25 for nonresidents; and bonus antlered deer stamps cost \$10 for residents and \$25 for nonresidents.

Background: DNR issues approximately 100 complimentary hunting licenses annually to Maryland residents who are former prisoners of war or 100% service-connected disabled American veterans. DNR does not track the number of hunting licenses issued to residents serving in the U.S. armed forces while they are on leave in the State.

Information about the number of individuals who are serving in the U.S. armed forces who have a service-connected disability is not available. However, DNR estimates that only a small number of individuals would likely be eligible for and take advantage of the bill's exemption.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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Analysis by: Amanda Mock

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