

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 689

(Delegate Myers, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Natural Resources - POWs and Disabled Veterans - Exception to Trout Stamp Requirement

This bill authorizes individuals who have lifetime complimentary angler’s licenses and are service-disabled veterans or former prisoners of war (POWs) to catch or possess trout in nontidal State waters without a trout stamp.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Department of Natural Resources (DNR) special fund revenues decrease by \$1,700 in FY 2011 and \$2,300 in FY 2012 and future years. The bill does not affect expenditures.

(in dollars)	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
SF Revenue	(\$1,700)	(\$2,300)	(\$2,300)	(\$2,300)	(\$2,300)
Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$1,700)	(\$2,300)	(\$2,300)	(\$2,300)	(\$2,300)

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: An individual age 16 or older may not fish in any special catch-and-return trout management area and may not possess trout while fishing in nontidal waters unless the individual first obtains a trout stamp in addition to an angler’s license. The trout stamp must be obtained from a DNR-authorized agent at a cost of \$5.

An individual with a specified resident consolidated senior sport fishing license or with a specified disability exemption is not required to obtain a trout stamp and angler's license to fish in any special catch-and-return trout management area or to possess trout while fishing in nontidal waters.

Any resident who is serving in the United States armed forces, and is on leave in the State, may fish without a trout stamp during the period of leave if in possession of a copy of the official leave order while fishing.

DNR may issue a lifetime complimentary angler's license to any resident who certifies status as a former POW or 100% service connected disabled American veteran.

Background: Since 2007, DNR has issued 461 complimentary lifetime nontidal licenses to 100% service-connected disabled American veterans and former POWs. These licenses are required in addition to the trout stamp to catch or possess trout.

State Revenues: DNR special fund revenues decrease by an estimated \$1,729 in fiscal 2011, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2010 effective date, and \$2,305 in fiscal 2012 and future years. This estimate assumes that all 461 POWs and 100% service-connected disabled American veterans with complimentary lifetime licenses are given trout stamps. DNR advises that additional revenue losses may occur to the extent there is an increase in the POW or veteran population.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 1, 2010
mlm/lgc

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