

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 61 (Senator Stone)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Counties - Temporary Kennel License

This bill requires a local licensing agency to issue a temporary kennel license to an applicant seeking to keep and care for a dog owned by another individual who is serving on active duty in the United States armed forces for the time period during which that individual is serving on active duty, if the applicant (1) already owns or keeps the maximum number of dogs allowed without a kennel license; (2) submits evidence that the dog owner is serving on active duty; (3) submits evidence of a valid license and current rabies vaccination certificate for the dog owned by the individual serving on active duty; (4) submits evidence of a valid license and current rabies vaccination certificate for each dog already owned or kept by the applicant; and (5) has paid all required fees.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in county licensing revenues to the extent there are applicants for temporary kennel licenses and additional license fees are required.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: While many counties are authorized to set their own dog and kennel license fees, (and a few others are authorized to also set terms and/or forms for such licenses), in general, the fees for dog licenses are \$1 for each male or spayed female dog,

\$2 for each unspayed female dog, \$10 for a kennel license for owning or keeping up to 25 dogs, and \$20 for a kennel license for keeping more than 25 dogs.

In addition, a person must obtain a kennel license from the local licensing agency if the person (1) owns or has custody of 15 or more unspayed female dogs over the age of 6 months kept for the purpose of breeding the dogs and selling their offspring; and (2) sells dogs from six or more litters in a year.

Each county must collect and maintain a record of the following information for each kennel license issued in the county (1) name of the licensee; (2) address of the licensee; (3) number of dogs maintained by the licensee; and (4) number of puppies sold by the licensee in the preceding year. Counties must report the information collected to the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation on or before January 15 of each year. Counties are authorized to establish additional kennel license fees to cover the cost of collecting, maintaining, and submitting the required records and reports.

Local Fiscal Effect: Local licensing revenues may increase by a minimal amount to the extent temporary kennel licenses are issued. However, the number of these licenses that may be issued cannot be reliably estimated.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Agriculture, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Howard County, Maryland Association of Counties, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 23, 2012
ncs/hlb

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