

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2014 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 154

(Delegate O'Donnell)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Natural Resources - Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission - Membership**

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This bill adds a member to the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission who must be a representative of the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission. The Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission representative may not be the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission representative serving on the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2014.

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**Fiscal Summary**

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:**

*Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission*

The Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission provides the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) advice on recreational fisheries matters. The commission is composed of

15 members whose experience and backgrounds must represent the diversified angling interests and waters of the State.

*Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission*

The Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission is composed of up to 15 members, comprised of up to 14 commercial watermen and 1 member of the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission. The composition of the commission must reflect the geographic regions of the State where the commercial fishing industry is operating.

**Background:** The Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission and the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission were created in 1973 and advise the Director of the Fisheries Service in DNR on matters regarding commercial and recreational fishing. The membership of the commissions was last modified in 2010 (Chapter 219) when the membership of each was increased from 12 to 15 members.

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**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 22, 2014  
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Analysis by: Scott D. Kennedy

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