

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1163

(Delegate Adams, *et al.*)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Waterfowl Hunting Guide License - Guide Services for Hunting Snow Geese -
Reciprocity

This bill exempts a nonresident from the requirement to obtain a Maryland waterfowl hunting guide license if (1) the nonresident possesses a valid waterfowl hunting guide license from the nonresident's home state; (2) the nonresident's home state extends similar privileges to Maryland residents; and (3) the nonresident purchases a Maryland migratory game bird stamp.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Because it is estimated that only a limited number of nonresident waterfowl hunting guides qualify for the reciprocity authorized under the bill, State finances are not materially affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law:

Waterfowl Hunting Guide and Outfitter Licenses

A person must have a waterfowl hunting guide license or waterfowl outfitter license in order to receive monetary compensation for outfitting or guiding a hunter to hunt wild waterfowl in the State.

A waterfowl hunting guide is a person who is an employee of a waterfowl outfitter and furnishes personal guiding services, including accompanying hunters while in the field, calling wild waterfowl, directing the times and zones of shooting by hunters, directing the species and number of wild waterfowl taken by hunters, dispatching wounded wild waterfowl, and retrieving downed wild waterfowl.

Regulations establish that, to qualify for a waterfowl hunting guide license, an applicant must be at least age 16 and possess a valid Maryland hunting license. Additionally, in the preceding three-year period, the applicant may not have been convicted of two or more specified violations of any state or federal migratory game bird laws. The license is valid for the period from August 1 through July 31 each year. The annual fee for a waterfowl hunting guide license is \$50.

Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp

Generally, resident and nonresident hunting licenses enable a purchaser to hunt game birds and mammals during any appropriate season without the purchase of additional stamps. However, a Maryland migratory game bird stamp, in addition to a hunting license, is required to hunt all migratory game birds (coots, doves, rails, snipe, waterfowl, and woodcock). The fee is \$9.

Background: The Department of Natural Resources advises that Delaware is the only surrounding state that offers reciprocity to nonresident waterfowl guides to allow them to provide guiding services to hunt snow geese. During the 2017 to 2018 hunting season, 10 Delaware residents held a Maryland waterfowl hunting guide license.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources; Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Kathleen P. Kennedy

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