

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 394

(Delegate Cassilly, *et al.*)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Tidal Fish Licenses - Authorization to Catch Crabs - Application Requirements

This bill requires an applicant for an authorization to catch crabs, or for renewal of an authorization to catch crabs, to supply, as part of the application, the applicant's home address and proof of residency. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill can be implemented with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) uses a single, commercial license, known as a tidal fish license, which authorizes a licensee to engage in each activity indicated on the license. The department may issue authorizations for activities listed in statute, including crab harvesting, for which the indicated fee has been paid. DNR is authorized to set, by regulation, specified targets for the number of tidal fish license authorizations and may modify the target number of authorizations for specified reasons. The department must provide for reallocation of any authorizations that are revoked or voluntarily relinquished and, pursuant to DNR regulations, those authorizations are reallocated to individuals on the commercial waiting list maintained by the department.

DNR must accept applications for new authorizations to participate in fishing activities from qualified persons and maintain a waiting list of candidates for each fishing activity in

order of the date and time that applications are received. Licensees may annually renew any valid existing authorizations on their licenses.

Background: DNR's commercial license/authorization application asks for a mailing address and a driver's license number.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1284 of 2018 passed with amendments in the House and received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: None.

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

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