

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 9 (Delegate Chang)
 Environment and Transportation

Consolidated Senior Sport Fishing License - Minimum Age

This bill lowers the age at which a Maryland resident may obtain a resident consolidated senior sport fishing license (from age 65 to age 62).

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues decrease by approximately \$90,000 in FY 2020 and by approximately \$120,000 annually thereafter. Expenditures are not directly affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
SF Revenue	(\$90,000)	(\$120,000)	(\$120,000)	(\$120,000)	(\$120,000)
Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$90,000)	(\$120,000)	(\$120,000)	(\$120,000)	(\$120,000)

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must establish a resident consolidated senior sport fishing license, to be issued to residents of Maryland beginning in the calendar year in which they reach age 65. The annual fee for the license is \$5 and the license is valid for one year following the date of issuance.

A holder of a resident consolidated senior sport fishing license may (1) engage in angling on the nontidal waters of the State without holding an angler’s license; (2) engage in angling for trout on the nontidal waters of the State without holding a trout stamp; and

(3) fish for finfish in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries or in the State waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Atlantic coastal bays and their tributaries without holding a Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license.

Background: Varying fees apply for DNR recreational fishing licenses. The annual fees for a resident angler's (nontidal) license, a resident trout stamp, and a resident Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing (tidal) license are \$20.50, \$5.00, and \$15.00, respectively. Additional information on recreational fishing licenses can be found in the Department of Legislative Services' recent report [Maryland Fishing and Hunting Licenses, Permits, and Stamps \(November 2018\)](#).

State Revenues: Special fund revenues decrease by approximately \$90,000 in fiscal 2020 (due to the bill's October 1, 2019 effective date) and by approximately \$120,000 annually thereafter, as a result of persons age 62 to 64 purchasing the resident consolidated senior sport fishing license instead of the resident angler's license, resident trout stamp, and/or resident Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license. This estimate is based on information provided by DNR on the average number of affected licenses issued during the 2016 through 2018 fishing seasons. It does not account for any increase in the overall number of recreational fishing licensees age 62 to 64 that may result from the bill itself; some individuals who otherwise would not have purchased a license may choose to do so as a result of the establishment of the discounted consolidated license being available at age 62.

The license/stamp fees are deposited in the Fisheries Management and Protection Fund and the Fisheries Research and Development Fund.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1693 of 2018 was referred to the House Rules and Executive Nominations 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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