

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 1025

(Senator Bailey)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environment and Transportation

Task Force on Fishing License Penalties

This bill establishes a Task Force on Fishing License Penalties to study and make recommendations, by December 1, 2021, on (1) fishing license penalty reciprocity between Maryland and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC); (2) if Virginia participates in the task force, fishing license penalty reciprocity between Virginia and PRFC; (3) the logistics associated with providing fishing license penalty reciprocity; and (4) specified related actions PRFC can take, consistent with the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020, and terminates June 30, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill can be implemented with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill establishes a Task Force on Fishing License Penalties, consisting of the Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee, and members appointed by the Governor. The Governor must also request that the Governor of Virginia appoint members to the task force and that PRFC appoint at least one member to the task force. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must provide staff for the task force, and the Governor must request that PRFC provide staff for the task force.

The task force must study and make recommendations on:

- fishing license penalty reciprocity between Maryland and PRFC;
- if Virginia participates in the task force, fishing license penalty reciprocity between Virginia and PRFC;
- the logistics associated with providing fishing license penalty reciprocity; and
- actions PRFC can take, consistent with the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, to prohibit a person from participating in a fishery under PRFC's jurisdiction if the person's license to catch, sell, buy, process, transport, export, or otherwise deal in fish in Maryland has been suspended or revoked.

The bill establishes the intent of the General Assembly that the task force constitute a commission to study and make recommendations concerning revision and amendments to the Potomac River Compact of 1958, as described in Article IV, Section 5, of the compact.

The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2021.

A member of the task force may not receive compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget.

Current Law/Background: PRFC, comprised of representatives of Maryland and Virginia, was established by the Potomac River Compact of 1958 and regulates fisheries (including recreational and commercial licensing) in the mainstem tidal Potomac River, from Washington, DC, to the Chesapeake Bay. The commission's regulations are jointly enforced by DNR's Natural Resources Police and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission Marine Police. Article IV, Section 5, of the compact (referenced in the bill) establishes that:

At any time subsequent to the adoption of this compact the governor or legislature of either Maryland or Virginia may call for the appointment of a commission to make further study and recommendations concerning revision and amendments to this compact, at which time the governors of the respective states shall act forthwith in compliance with the request for the appointment of said commission.

Maryland and Virginia are members of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact. Under the compact, there is reciprocal recognition among the member states (45 states) of hunting and recreational fishing license privilege suspensions. DNR indicated in 2019 that Maryland had entered 743 violators under the compact over the previous four years, preventing those violators from obtaining hunting and recreational fishing licenses in each of the participating states.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 2020
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Revised - Clarification - April 29, 2020

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