

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 821 (Delegate Rose)
Environment and Transportation

Natural Resources – Hunting Licenses – New Residents

This bill authorizes a person to receive a resident hunting license without submitting an application to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) if the person (1) has resided in Maryland for less than one year; (2) held a valid hunting license in the person’s previous State of residence for the prior three years; and (3) pays the applicable license fee. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: DNR can implement the bill and make any necessary changes to its electronic licensing system with existing budgeted resources. Because license fees must still be paid, it is assumed that the bill does not affect special fund revenues from hunting license and stamp fees.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law:

Hunting Licenses Generally Required

With certain exceptions, a person must have a Maryland resident or nonresident hunting license in order to hunt or attempt to hunt all legal game birds and mammals during the appropriate season in the State. In general, a person must obtain a certificate of competency

in firearms and hunter safety before obtaining a hunting license by successfully completing the Maryland hunter education course. Hunting licenses and associated stamps can be purchased online through DNR's electronic licensing system, which is called COMPASS, through an authorized Sport License Agent, or by phone. In order to obtain a hunting license, a person must complete and submit an application to DNR either by paper, electronically within the COMPASS licensing system, in person through a Sport License Agent, or by telephone.

Funds generated from any license, stamp, application, or permit fee under wildlife provisions in the Natural Resources Article are credited to the State Wildlife Management and Protection Fund and used for the scientific investigation, protection, propagation, and management of wildlife.

Resident and Nonresident Licenses – Standard

Resident and nonresident hunting licenses enable a purchaser to hunt game birds and mammals during any appropriate season without the purchase of additional stamps, unless the purchaser is hunting migratory game birds, wild waterfowl, or deer during bow and arrow season or muzzle loader season, in which case specified stamps are required. The purchase of a resident or nonresident hunting license does not authorize the purchaser to hunt furbearers or black bears. Each hunting license is valid from issuance through July 31 of the following year. The annual fee for a resident hunting license is \$24.50, while the annual fee for a nonresident hunting license is \$130.00.

Resident and Nonresident Licenses – Junior

Resident and nonresident junior hunting licenses enable a purchaser younger than age 16 to hunt all legal game birds and mammals during any appropriate season without the purchase of additional stamps, unless the purchaser is hunting migratory game birds, wild waterfowl, or deer during bow and arrow season or muzzle loader season, in which case specified stamps are required. The purchase of a resident or nonresident junior hunting license does not authorize the purchaser to hunt furbearers or black bears. Each hunting license is valid from issuance through July 31 of the following year.

The annual fee for a resident junior hunting license is \$10.50, but a resident junior hunter may receive a one-time free annual hunting license on successful completion of a hunter education course and submission of a specified application. Chapter 260 of 2015 reduced the nonresident junior hunting license fee from \$65.00 to \$32.50. Although the reduced fee terminated statutorily on June 30, 2018, in practice, the fee has not increased; the annual fee for a nonresident junior hunting license is currently \$32.50.

Resident License – Senior

Resident senior hunting licenses enable a purchaser who is at least age 65 to hunt all legal game birds and mammals during any appropriate season without the purchase of additional stamps, unless the purchaser is hunting migratory game birds, wild waterfowl, or deer during bow and arrow season or muzzle loader season, in which case specified stamps are required. The purchase of a resident senior hunting license does not authorize the purchaser to hunt furbearers or black bears. Each hunting license is valid from issuance through July 31 of the following year. A resident senior hunting license may be purchased in the calendar year in which the purchaser reaches age 65. The annual fee for a resident senior hunting license is \$5.

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 - February 15, 2021
rh/lgc

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