

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 755

(Delegate Thiam)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Natural Resources - Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund - No Cost Licenses and Stamps

This bill establishes that recreational hunting or fishing opportunities, that are provided using a grant awarded from the Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund, may include providing at no cost (1) an angler's license and trout stamps; (2) a Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license; or (3) a hunting license and any corresponding stamps. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not directly affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund, administered by the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT), has the stated purpose of providing any of the following opportunities for Gold Star recipients, disabled veterans or other veterans who could benefit from the opportunities, disabled members of the U.S. Armed Forces or other members of the U.S. Armed Forces who could benefit from the opportunities, and permanently disabled persons who require the use of a wheelchair: (1) recreational hunting or fishing; (2) recreational water activities; (3) other recreational outdoor activities; (4) therapeutic outdoor activities; or (5) workforce training for green jobs, including outdoor agricultural jobs.

CBT may use the fund to make grants to eligible sponsor organizations to pay capital, operational, or programming costs incurred in providing any of the above-mentioned opportunities. The Department of Natural Resources is required to establish a process through which an individual who purchases an angler's license, a Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license, or a hunting license and any corresponding stamps – through the department's electronic licensing system – may make a voluntary monetary donation to the fund at the time of purchase.

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 16, 2021
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