

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 537

(Senator Carozza, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environment and Transportation

Department of Natural Resources – Shrimp Fishery Regulations – Clarification

This bill clarifies that the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) existing authority to adopt regulations governing any aspect of the shrimp fishery and establishing and implementing a pilot program related to fishing for shrimp, authorizes the department to adopt those regulations notwithstanding any other provisions of State fisheries laws. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 119 of 2021 prohibits a person from catching shrimp for commercial purposes unless the person first obtains a license from DNR; it also authorizes the department to adopt regulations (1) governing any aspect of the shrimp fishery and (2) establishing and implementing a pilot program related to fishing for shrimp. The regulations may authorize the department to establish for the shrimp fishery – by public notice – closed areas, catch limits, seasons, size limits, gear restrictions, and reporting requirements.

Small Business Effect: Establishing a shrimp fishery in Maryland, pursuant to Chapter 119, is expected to have a meaningful impact on small businesses that participate

in the fishery. DNR indicates that this bill clarifies that gear for shrimp harvesting, that is not otherwise allowed under current law, can be tested in the pilot program authorized under Chapter 119. To the extent the bill's clarification facilitates the establishment of the pilot program for shrimp, and eventually the establishment of a shrimp fishery in the State, it is expected to have a meaningful impact on small businesses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: HB 1149 (Delegate Jacobs, *et al.*) - Environment and Transportation.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2022
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