

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

Senate Bill 301

(Senator Simonaire, *et al.*)

Education, Energy, and the Environment and  
Finance

Environment and Transportation

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Veterans' Discounts Act

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This bill authorizes specified governmental entities to waive fees for certain licenses, certificates, registrations, applications, or renewals for a veteran. Before any fee waivers may be granted, the relevant entity must adopt regulations to allow for the waived fee.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** To the extent any licensing authority opts to implement the fee waiver, State revenues (general and special fund) decrease, as discussed below, perhaps significantly and potentially beginning as early as FY 2027. Affected entities can use existing budgeted resources to promulgate any regulations; some entities *may* incur minimal programming costs if fee waivers are authorized and updates are needed to licensing systems.

**Local Effect:** Potential impact on local highway user revenues, to the extent certain fees are waived by the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) under the bill's authorization, as discussed below.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary/Current Law:** Generally, under current law, an individual must be licensed or registered by the appropriate licensing authority before practicing specified occupations in the State. For certain occupations, there are pathways to practicing in Maryland more readily, including through interstate compacts, licensure by reciprocity, and expedited licensure for veterans.

Section 2.5-106 of the Business Regulation Article and Section 11-612.2 of the Financial Institutions Article require certain licenses to be expedited for active service members, veterans, and their spouses, so long as they meet the requirements for licensure and include proof of military status in the application.

Various provisions within the Maryland Vehicle Law also confer specified benefits on veterans under certain circumstances. For example, the State exempts veterans with certain disabilities from registration fees.

The bill authorizes certain licensing authorities to waive license or registration fees for veterans (in some cases, limited to resident veterans), contingent upon authorizing regulations. **Exhibit 1** lists the fees eligible for waiver under the bill and their associated amounts under current law. Renewal fees are included if applicable.

**Exhibit 1**  
**Fees Authorized for Waiver Under the Bill**

<b>Licensing Authority</b>	<b>Fee Eligible for Waiver</b>	<b>Current Fee</b>	<b>Renewal Fee</b>
<b>Maryland Department of Agriculture</b>	Pest control consultant/applicator certificate (general fee for standard certificate – an additional fee of \$25 or \$7 is also imposed in certain circumstances, as specified)	\$75	
	Nutrient management consultant certificate	\$50	\$150
	Nutrient management license – individual or sole proprietorship	\$50	\$150
	Farm operator’s plan development certificate	\$20	
<b>Board of Foresters</b>	Forester license (application)	\$45	
	Forester license	\$55	\$100
<b>Board of Pilots</b>	Unlimited pilot license	\$600	\$600
	40-foot-draft limited pilot license	\$300	\$300
	36-foot-draft limited pilot license	\$300	\$300
	32-foot-draft limited pilot license	\$200	\$200
<b>Secretary of State Police</b>	Private detective license – individual	\$200	\$200
	Security system technician license (application)	\$100	\$100
	Security guard license – individual	\$200	\$200
<b>Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services</b>	Private home detention monitoring license (application)	\$500	\$100

<b>Licensing Authority</b>	<b>Fee Eligible for Waiver</b>	<b>Current Fee</b>	<b>Renewal Fee</b>
<b>State Athletic Commission</b>	Wrestler or contestant license	\$10	
	Referee or judge in a contest license	\$15	
	Manager of a contestant license	\$25	
	Matchmaker of a contest license	\$25	
	Promoter of a contest license	\$150	
<b>Maryland Department of Labor</b>	Athlete agent license	\$1,000	\$1,000
	Secondhand precious metal object dealer license (application)	\$300	\$265
	Outdoor music festival promoter license*	\$500	
<b>Maryland Home Improvement Commission</b>	Contractor license	\$100	
<b>Maryland Department of the Environment</b>	Surface mining license	\$400	\$150
<b>Commissioner of Financial Regulation</b>	Money transmission license (investigation fee)	\$1,000	
	Money transmission license	\$2,000	
<b>Department of Natural Resources</b>	Limited fishing guide license**	\$50	
	Fishing guide license application (nontidal freshwater)**	\$20	
	Fishing guide license application (nontidal freshwater and certain tidal waters)**	\$50	
	Taxidermist and fur-tanning license	\$50	\$50
	Angler's license**	\$32	
	Angler's license (short-term)**	\$16	
	Trout stamp**	\$20	
	Tidal fish license – fishing guide authorization**	\$100	
	Tidal fish license – master fishing guide authorization**	\$100	
	Tidal fish license – finfish authorization – hook and line only**	\$100	
	Tidal fish license – finfish authorization – all other equipment**	\$150	
Tidal fish license – blue crab authorization – up to 50 pots, trotlines, nets, dip nets, traps, pounds, and scrapes**	\$100		

Licensing Authority	Fee Eligible for Waiver	Current Fee	Renewal Fee
<b>Department of Natural Resources</b> <i>(continued)</i>	Tidal fish license – blue crab authorization – over 50 pots, trotlines, nets, dip nets, traps, pounds, and scrapes**	\$150	
	Tidal fish license – clam authorization**	\$100	
	Tidal fish license – oyster authorization (dredge boat)**	\$250	
	Tidal fish license – oyster authorization (other than a dredge boat)**	\$100	
	Tidal fish license – conch, turtle, lobster, and <i>Cancer</i> crab authorization**	\$100	
	Unlimited tidal fish license**	\$300	
	Harvester registration**	\$215	
	Tidal fish license – blue crab authorization – additional crew members – 301 to 600 pots per vessel (additional fee)**	\$100	
	Tidal fish license – blue crab authorization – additional crew members – 601 to 900 pots per vessel (additional fee)**	\$150	
	Seafood dealer license (with tidal fish license)**	\$50	
	Seafood dealer license (without tidal fish license)**	\$250	
	Seafood landing from out-of-state waters authorization**	\$350	
	Striped bass permit (with finfish authorization)**	\$200	
	Striped bass permit (with unlimited tidal fish license)**	\$150	
	Yellow perch permit**	\$25	
	Horseshoe crab permit**	\$25	
	Black sea bass permit**	\$25	
	Summer flounder permit**	\$25	
	Snapping turtle permit**	\$25	
	Permit for any other species, as established by regulation**	Up to \$25	
Oyster license (surcharge)**	\$300		
Tidal fish license (application fee for license or authorization transfer under specified circumstances)**	\$50		

<b>Licensing Authority</b>	<b>Fee Eligible for Waiver</b>	<b>Current Fee</b>	<b>Renewal Fee</b>
<b>Department of Natural Resources</b> <i>(continued)</i>	Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license**	\$15	
	Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license (short-term)**	\$6	
	Special Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license (per boat)**	\$50	
	Tree expert license**	Up to \$55	Up to \$100
	Vessel certificate of number (application)	\$70	
	Vessel certificate of number (replacement or correction)	\$20	
	Maryland use sticker (two-year) (application)**	\$70	
	Maryland use sticker (replacement or correction)**	\$20	
	Hunting license (regular)**	\$35	
	Hunting license (senior)**	\$5	
	Hunting license (apprentice)**	\$15	
	Bow and arrow hunting stamp**	\$6	
	Black powder hunting stamp**	\$6	
	Maryland migratory game bird stamp**	\$15	
	Bonus antlered deer stamp**	\$10	
	Sika deer stamp**	\$10	
	Furbearer permit (individual)**	\$5	
	Furbearer permit (group)**	\$50	
	Waterfowl outfitter license	\$300	
	Waterfowl hunting guide license	\$50	
Fur dealer's license**	\$50		
Taxidermist and fur tanner's license**	\$50	\$50	
<b>State Fire Marshal</b>	Explosives manufacturer license (less than 500 pounds)**	\$150	
	Explosives manufacturer license (500 pounds to 4,999 pounds)**	\$300	
	Explosives manufacturer license (5,000 pounds to 9,999 pounds)**	\$750	
	Explosives manufacturer license (10,000 pounds or more)**	\$1,500	
	Explosives dealer license (for retail)**	\$75	
	Explosives dealer license (for users)**	\$150	

<b>Licensing Authority</b>	<b>Fee Eligible for Waiver</b>	<b>Current Fee</b>	<b>Renewal Fee</b>
<b>State Fire Marshal</b> <i>(continued)</i>	Explosives dealer license (for wholesale and retail)**	\$300	
	Explosives possession license (non-firearms)**	\$150	
	Explosives possession license (firearms)**	\$150	
	Explosives storage license (500 pounds or more)**	\$150	
	Explosives storage license (less than 500 pounds)**	\$75	
	Blaster's permit**	\$60	
	Nongovernmental electrical inspector certificate (application)	\$100	\$50
<b>Motor Vehicle Administration</b>	Class A (passenger) vehicle registration (3,500 pounds or less)	\$80.50	
	Class A (passenger) vehicle registration (3,501 pounds to 3,700 pounds)	\$85.50	
	Class A (passenger) vehicle registration (more than 3,700 pounds)	\$151.50	
	Class D (motorcycle) vehicle registration	\$65	
	Class E (truck) vehicle registration (3,500 pounds or less)	\$93.75	
	Class E (truck) vehicle registration (3,501 to 5,000 pounds)	\$98.75	
	Class E (truck) vehicle registration (more than 5,000 pounds)	\$138.75	
	Class M (multipurpose) vehicle registration (3,500 pounds or less)	\$80.50	
	Class M (multipurpose) vehicle registration (3,501 to 3,700 pounds)	\$85.50	
	Class M (multipurpose) vehicle registration (more than 3,700 pounds)	\$151.50	
Vehicle emissions inspection***	Up to \$30		

\*Although the license for an outdoor music festival promoter is issued by the clerks of the court (and the fees are paid to the clerks), the bill grants the waiver authority to the Maryland Department of Labor.

\*\* = waiver only for *resident* veterans

\*\*\*After July 1, 2026, this fee is adjusted annually for inflation.

Source: Department of Legislative Services

**State Fiscal Effect:** As the bill is authorizing in nature, State entities are not required to implement a fee waiver for veterans (or, in certain cases, resident veterans). Prior to implementing any fee waiver, relevant entities are required to promulgate implementing regulations; this can be accomplished using existing budgeted resources. Should any agency or licensing authority promulgate regulations to implement a fee waiver for veterans, special fund or general fund revenues, as applicable, likely decrease, perhaps significantly, and possibly beginning as early as fiscal 2027. Because of the authorizing nature of the bill and the requirements for regulations to be adopted prior to any fee waiver, the following information is included for context only to illustrate potential impacts should entities use the authority under the bill to implement fee waivers. The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) also notes that regulations may allow for fee waivers in *whole or in part*. To the extent that entities use their authority under the bill and adopt regulations, any associated impact would specifically be accounted for in the fiscal analysis of the regulation prepared by DLS for the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review.

#### *Maryland Department of Agriculture*

The Maryland Department of Agriculture advises that it does not currently track the number of veteran licensees under the agency. For context, there are 7,775 certified pesticide applicators and consultants licensed in the State. The department estimates that, based on the estimated number of veterans and licensed pesticide applicators in the State, special fund revenues for the pesticide program may decrease by \$60,000 to \$75,000 annually if the veteran fee waiver is implemented. Additionally, special fund revenues for the nutrient management program could decrease by approximately \$10,000 annually.

The department advises that it does not collect sufficient special funds to offset the loss, so additional general funds would be needed to backfill the loss.

#### *Department of Natural Resources*

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) advises that the Wildlife and Heritage Service is almost entirely funded through federal and special funds, which primarily come from the sale of hunting licenses. The service receives \$3 in federal grant monies for every \$1 matched with special funds. DNR advises additionally that the Wildlife and Heritage Service receives less than \$300,000 annually in budgeted general funds, while its budget typically exceeds \$15.0 million due to license fee revenue.

#### *Maryland Department of Labor*

The Maryland Department of Labor estimates that approximately 3.7% of license and permit holders are eligible veterans, and advises that it may require limited information

technology system updates to modify billing, licensing, and fee collection systems to apply the waiver.

#### *Department of State Police*

The Department of State Police (DSP) advises that, should it decide to implement the fee waiver, general funds would be impacted, as all fee revenues collected by DSP and the State Fire Marshal are remitted to the State general fund.

#### *Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services*

The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services advises that private home detention monitoring agency licensing fees support operational activities of the Commission on Correctional Standards; accordingly, a fee waiver could result in decreased operational activities for that commission.

#### *Maryland Department of Transportation*

MDOT advises that special fund revenues could decrease by more than \$23.0 million on an annual basis under one scenario. Specifically, this example assumes veterans are provided with a 50% fee waiver for registrations and vehicle emissions testing; the estimate also accounts for approximately 44,000 veterans who already receive free registration under current practice based on 100% disability status.

MDOT also advises that if any revenue loss associated with fee waivers causes it to exceed applicable policy standards concerning coverage-to-income ratios, it would need to increase revenues from another source and/or decrease expenditures.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** While the bill does not directly affect local government operations and finances due to its authorizing nature, should MDOT adopt regulations to grant a full or partial fee waiver, total local highway user revenues decrease, perhaps significantly.

**Additional Comments:** According to a 2025 report from the Department of Veterans and Military Families, approximately 348,459 veterans reside in the State.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 1594 (Delegate Kipke) - Rules and Executive Nominations.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Agriculture; Maryland Department of the Environment; Maryland Department of Labor; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Veterans and Military Families; Department of Legislative Services

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