

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 284 (Senator Simonaire)
 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Natural Resources - Complimentary Hunting and Fishing Licenses

This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to report, by January 15, 2017, and each year thereafter, specified information to the General Assembly and the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) on complimentary hunting and fishing licenses issued by DNR. MDVA, in consultation with DNR, must make available to State residents who are veterans information identifying out-of-state complimentary hunting and fishing licenses for which State veterans are eligible. DNR is authorized to issue annually a complimentary Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license to the President of the United States, the governor of any state, and any official of the game and fish department of any other state.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2016. The DNR reporting requirement and the authorization to issue complimentary licenses terminate May 31, 2019.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund expenditures increase by \$12,000 in FY 2016 only for DNR to reprogram its licensing database (COMPASS). Revenues are not materially affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SF Expenditure	12,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$12,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The required DNR report applies to (1) complimentary angler's, Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing, and hunting licenses issued annually to the President of the United States, the governor of any state, and game and fish department officials/officers of other states and (2) lifetime complimentary angler's, Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing, and hunter's licenses issued to former prisoners of war or 100% service connected disabled American veterans.

The report must include, for the previous calendar year, the number of applicants for complimentary licenses, the number of applications rejected, and the number of complimentary licenses issued. The report must also include the total number of complimentary lifetime licenses outstanding at the end of the calendar year. The information must be aggregated and reported by persons' state of residence; the types of complimentary licenses (angler's, Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing, and hunting); annual and lifetime licenses; and the status that formed the basis of the applicants', rejected applicants', and holders' eligibility for the complimentary licenses.

Current Law: DNR may annually issue a complimentary angler's license to the President of the United States, the governor of any state, and an official of the game and fish department of any other state. DNR also may annually issue a complimentary hunter's license to the President of the United States, the governor of any state, or an official or an enforcement officer of the game and fish management agency of another state that reciprocally offers complimentary hunting licenses.

DNR may also issue a lifetime complimentary angler's, Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing, or hunter's license to a Maryland resident who certifies that the resident is a former prisoner of war or a 100% service connected disabled American veteran. DNR may also issue a lifetime complimentary hunter's license to an out-of-state person who certifies that they are a former prisoner of war or a 100% service connected disabled American veteran if the person's state of residence extends similar reciprocal privileges.

State Expenditures: Special fund expenditures increase by \$12,000 in fiscal 2016 only to reprogram COMPASS. The reprogramming is needed to collect the information on rejected applications for complimentary licenses, which is among the information required to be reported. DNR's Licensing and Registration Service is funded by a number of special funds including the Fisheries Management and Protection Fund, the Fisheries Research and Development Fund, and the Wildlife Management and Protection Fund, into which fishing and hunting license fee revenues are deposited.

MDVA can implement the bill with existing budgeted resources.

State Revenues: The authorization for DNR to issue annually complimentary Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing licenses to the President of the United States, the governor of any state, and any official of the game and fish department of any other state is not expected to materially affect revenues.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 5, 2016
kb/lgc

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