

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 361 (Senator Hershey, *et al.*)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Limited Fishing Guide License - Payment for Service - Alteration

This bill allows a person with a limited fishing guide license to accept consideration for services as a limited fishing guide if the person (1) is guiding anglers in up to three boats or vessels that have one or two occupants and are propelled by oars or paddles and (2) possesses, as applicable, an angler's license or a Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license. A person being guided under those circumstances is not required to possess an angler's license or a Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues may decrease, as discussed below. Expenditures are not materially affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law: The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may issue a limited fishing guide license that is applicable in all waters of the State to allow a license holder to guide:

- anglers in up to three boats or vessels that (1) have one or two occupants and (2) are propelled by oars or paddles; or

- up to 10 anglers fishing from shore or on foot in the water (or any number of anglers who are participating in an educational or recreational program sponsored by a State, local, or municipal government and who are fishing from shore or on foot in the water).

A person may not accept any consideration for services as a limited fishing guide unless the person and all persons being guided possess, as applicable, an angler's license or a Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license.

The fee for a limited fishing guide license is \$50 for a resident and \$100 for a nonresident. The annual fee for an angler's license is \$20.50 for a resident and, for a nonresident, the greater of \$30.50 or a fee equal to the fee charged a Maryland resident by the nonresident's home state for a similar license. The annual fee for a Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license is \$15 for a resident and \$22.50 for a nonresident.

Background: Additional information on fishing guide licenses, the angler's license, and the Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license can be found in the Department of Legislative Services' recent report [Maryland Fishing and Hunting Licenses, Permits, and Stamps \(November 2018\)](#).

State Revenues: Special fund revenues from recreational fishing licenses (angler's and Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing licenses) may decrease as a result of the bill's elimination of the requirement that persons being guided by a limited fishing guide possess a recreational fishing license. DNR does not require reporting by limited fishing guides and, as a result, does not have information on how many people go on guided trips with limited fishing guides each year. DNR indicates that there are currently 65 limited fishing guides.

For illustrative purposes only, if, each year, 20 people per limited fishing guide (of which there are 65) do not purchase an angler's license as a result of the bill, when they otherwise would have, and 10 of the 20 people per limited fishing guide would have purchased an annual angler's license (\$20.50) and the other 10 would have purchased a 7-day angler's license (\$7.50), special fund revenues decrease by \$18,200 annually. That revenue loss varies proportionally if the assumed number of people who do not purchase licenses is increased or reduced, or if other types of licenses (with different fees) would have otherwise been purchased (*e.g.*, Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing licenses or nonresident angler's licenses).

Small Business Effect: Because the bill reduces the cost for a person (who does not already have a recreational fishing license) to go on a guided fishing trip with a limited fishing guide, the bill may meaningfully benefit limited fishing guides by increasing business.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 349 (Delegate Jacobs, *et al.*) - Environment and Transportation.

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

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