

Department of Planning and Budget 2001 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB2294

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron Blevins

3. Committee Chesapeake and Its Tributaries

4. Title Term of fishing licenses

5. Summary/Purpose: The bill provides that all fishing licenses, both recreational and commercial, issued by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission shall be valid for one year from their date of purchase and that upon implementation of a point-of-sale licensing system, fishing licenses issued by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries shall be valid for one year from their date of purchase. Under current law, fishing licenses issued by both the commission and the department are valid from January 1, or the later date of purchase, and expire December 31 of the same year.

6. Fiscal impact is unknown, see item 8.

7. Budget amendment necessary: Yes, Item 425.

8. Fiscal implications:

Marine Resources Commission (MRC): The bill would effect both commercial and recreational saltwater fishing licenses issued by MRC. To implement the bill for commercial licenses, MRC will incur costs for restructuring the system used to issue and track licenses and for revising all regulations that govern commercial saltwater fishing. The costs, although unknown at this time, are anticipated to be significant. MRC does not anticipate costs associated with implementing the bill for recreational saltwater fishing licenses, because the majority of these licenses are sold through Department of Game and Inland Fisheries agents.

Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF): The bill would have no fiscal impact during the 2000-2002 biennium. The target date for having the automated point-of-sale licensing system operational is July 2002 (FY 2003). The department estimates that fishing license sales would not decrease and any fiscal impact due to the timing of license purchases would be slight.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Marine Resources Commission, Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: Because the bill would take effect July 1, 2001 for licenses issued by MRC, but not until the point-of-sale system is operational for the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

(scheduled for July 2002), there will be a one year period during which recreational saltwater and freshwater fishing licenses will be valid on different schedules. This may be confusing for some citizens.

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cc: Secretary of Natural Resources

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