

Department of Planning and Budget 2007 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB2018

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|------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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 Shuler

3. Committee Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title Hunting license fees

5. Summary/Purpose: Grants the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries the authority to revise nonresident license fees by as much as \$100, and the lifetime hunting and fishing license fees by as much as \$50 every three years.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: Indeterminate. See item 8, below.

7. Budget amendment necessary: No.

8. Fiscal implications: The Board of Game and Inland Fisheries is currently authorized to increase or decrease hunting license fees by \$5 every three years. The bill would allow the Board to increase or decrease hunting license fees for nonresidents to up to \$100 every three years, and the lifetime hunting and fishing license fees to up to \$50 every three years. The license fee charged to nonresidents could increase by up to \$95, and the lifetime license fees could increase by up to \$45. Any revenue collected from the increased assessment would be deposited to the Game Protection Fund.

All hunting, fishing, and trapping fees were increased \$5, effective July 1, 2006. The earliest point at which the fees could be increased again would be July 1, 2009, or in FY 2010. The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) estimates that 79,721 nonresident licenses will be sold in 2010. If the Board authorizes an increase of \$95 in the nonresident license fee, the maximum increase permitted by the proposed legislation, the revenue impact could be \$7.6 million. The revenue impact would depend on the amount by which the Board increases the fee; it could range from zero, if the fee remains at its current level, to \$7.6 million, if it is increased to the maximum permitted by the bill. Similarly, DGIF sells approximately 6,000 lifetime licenses each year; if the Board authorizes an increase of \$45 in the lifetime license fee, the maximum increase permitted by the proposed legislation, and the number of licenses sold remains constant, the annual revenue impact could range from zero, if the fee remains at its current level, to \$270,000, if it is increased to the maximum permitted by the bill.

The potential revenue impact of the bill is zero to \$7.8 million and would be deposited to the Game Protection Fund.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: HB 1981 also adjusts the amount by which the Board may increase hunting license fees for nonresidents.

Date: 01/12/07/tmw

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cc: Secretary of Natural Resources