

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 1131

(Delegates Mautz and Adams)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Natural Resources - Limited Fishing Guide License - Propulsion of Boats and Vessels

This bill alters the manner in which a boat or vessel being guided by a limited fishing guide may be propelled. The bill requires that the boat or vessel be propelled by human power, instead of specifically by oars and paddles. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not directly affect State finances.

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 (nontidal) license or a Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing (tidal) license.

The fee for a limited fishing guide license is \$50 for a resident and \$100 for a nonresident.

Chapters 259 and 260 of 2019 allow for DNR to issue a special charter boat license (that was previously only valid for all individuals on a charter boat operated by a licensed fishing guide in the tidal waters of the State) that is valid for all individuals on a vessel *under the guidance of* a fishing guide with a limited fishing guide license, in tidal waters of the State. The special charter boat license serves as an authorization in place of individuals having to obtain a Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license.

Small Business Effect: DNR indicates that the limited fishing guide license was originally intended to be used by guides guiding clients out of kayaks or canoes, but kayak companies have since introduced additional drive systems that are moved by human power (typically by pedals) but not with an oar or a paddle. The bill may have a meaningful small business effect on limited fishing guides who would like to take advantage of the use of those types of vessels.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: SB 793 (Senator Hershey) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 21, 2020
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