

Department of Planning and Budget

2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB114

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: March

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title: Volunteer firefighters and emergency personnel; special lifetime hunting and fishing licenses.

5. Summary: Qualifies volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services personnel who have completed three consecutive years of service to obtain basic resident lifetime hunting and fishing licenses without any fee. The applicant is required to provide proof of the three years of consecutive service when applying.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: See Item 8, below.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate. See item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: The Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) anticipates an indeterminate nongeneral fund and federal revenue loss as a result of this bill. Any impact will depend on the number of eligible applicants. In order to calculate an estimate, DWR used an estimate provided by the Department of Fire Programs which states that 70 percent of firefighters in the Commonwealth are volunteers to determine that 9,995 firefighters would be eligible for the benefit proposed in this bill. Using an estimate published in the "Prehospital Emergency Care" journal, DWR estimates that 9,589 medical services personnel would be eligible to take advantage of the allowance in this bill. These estimates do not reflect the potential impact of applicants who may become eligible in the future. Based on a review of similar legislation in West Virginia and North Carolina DWR anticipates that 25 percent of this population may obtain lifetime and fishing licenses and would have otherwise purchased lifetime hunting and fishing licenses resulting in a potential revenue loss of up to \$2.6 million in Game Protection Fund revenue attributable to the initial purchase of the licenses, and \$176,256 annually in federal funds. Lifetime Licenses prices are staggered based on the age of the customer at the time of purchase: \$265 if under 44; \$215 from 45 through 50 years of age; \$165 from 51 through 55 years of age; \$115 from 56 through 60 years of age; \$65 from 61 through 64 years of age; and \$25 for those 65 years of age and older. For this estimate, DWR assumes that eligible individuals are 44 years of age. Hunting and fishing licenses in this age group are priced at \$265.

Federal funding is available to DWR in proportion to the number of licenses the agency sells, and is sustained until a lifetime license holder reaches 80 years of age, resulting in a potential long-term federal impact. The amount of federal support received by DWR is calculated based on agency license revenues. In order to report a hunter/angler as a certified license holder, the state fish and wildlife agency must receive a minimum net revenue (currently \$2.00) for said license. For each certified license holder that DWR reports, Virginia receives approximately \$36.00 (\$26 for every hunting license and \$10 for every fishing license) in federal support. Annual apportionments from this program, coupled with the sales of hunting and fishing license, represent more than three-fourths of DWR's operating budget each year. In addition to these revenue sources, the department receives revenue generated from the Watercraft Sales and Use Tax as well as the sales tax on hunting, fishing, and wildlife equipment.

Any impact a loss of nongeneral fund revenue tied to hunting and fishing license fees, and the corresponding federal apportionments may have on agency services is indeterminate.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Wildlife Resources.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This bill is similar to HB120 and HB115, which authorize resident veterans who meet certain service-connected disability requirements to receive lifetime hunting and fishing licenses at no cost or at a reduced cost.