



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 146

PRINTER’S NO. 120

PRIME SPONSOR: Brewster

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25
Fish Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY: SB 146 PN 120 provides an exemption from Fishing License requirements, for individuals participating in therapeutic recreational programs. This legislation would take effect in sixty (60) days.

ANALYSIS: The legislation amends Title 30 (Fish) Sec. 2709(e) which provides for exemptions from license requirements. Specifically, the bill would allow the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to issue therapeutic exemptions to fishing license requirements for programs designed to use the sport of fishing for treatment modality. Currently, the Commission provides license fee exemptions only for educational programs.

As it stands, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has been granting waivers to nonprofit and volunteer groups to proceed with fishing events that are a benefit to the mental and physical health of the participants of such activities. SB 146 PN 120 provides an exemption for these programs.

Organizations that provide fishing opportunities as treatment include veterans' groups, such as Project Healing Waters, the Wounded Warrior Project, as well as Casting for Recovery for breast cancer survivors.

FISCAL IMPACT: This legislation would have a minimal fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. Since nonprofit organizations and volunteer groups already receive a waiver from the Commission to proceed with fishing events, the Commission forgoes the collection of revenue for such individual fishing licenses. Cost of a license is as follows:

<u>CY 2023 License</u>	<u>CY 2024 License</u>	
\$23.50	\$26.00	(annual PA resident fishing license)
\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	(federal reimbursement for fishing license sale)
<u>\$10.50</u>	<u>\$13.00</u>	(trout permit accompanying a fishing license)
\$39.00	\$44.00	Total Cost

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission grants between sixty (60) to a hundred (100) such waivers annually across various groups and organizations. The corresponding fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds is a function of multiplying the fishing license cost times the number of waivers. For FY 2023/24, such a calculation results in reduced revenues of less than \$5,000 to the Fish Fund.

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House Appropriations Committee (D)

DATE: March 18, 2024

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.