

# **SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NO.** Senate Bill 1102

**PRINTER'S NO.** 1424

**AMOUNT**

\$119,640 Annual Revenue Loss

**FUND**

Fish

**DATE INTRODUCED**

September 20, 2013

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Scarnati

**HISTORY OF BILL**

Referred to GAME AND FISHERIES, Sept. 20, 2013

Reported as amended, Oct. 1, 2013

First consideration, Oct. 1, 2013

Second consideration, Oct. 2, 2013

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, Oct. 2, 2013

Re-reported as committed, Oct. 15, 2013

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

Senate Bill 1102 amends Title 30 (Fish) to provide reduced fishing license fees to certain disabled veterans. Specifically, it amends Section 2707 (a) to provide that any veteran who is eligible for disability compensation as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), who provides the necessary information and submits the necessary statements, is to be issued a resident hunting license at the cost of \$1.

Under the provisions of current law, resident disabled veterans whose physical disability is considered 100% or whose physical disability consists of the loss of one or more limbs or the use of one or more limbs, shall continue to receive a free license.

The act takes effect in 60 days.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Under current law, any resident disabled veteran whose physical disability is not 100% or has not suffered the loss or use of one of more limbs, must pay the full fishing license fee of \$21. Under SB 1102's provisions, this group of veterans will now pay \$1. Therefore, there will be a \$20 revenue loss for each purchased license by a newly-qualified disabled veteran under the SB 1102 provisions.

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According to the Fish and Boat Commission, in 2012, they issued a total of 695 fishing licenses to resident 100% disabled veterans. The VA reports that there are currently 10,758 100% disabled veterans in Pennsylvania. Using these figures to estimate a percentage of those disabled veterans who might purchase the new reduced-cost fishing licenses under SB 1102's provisions, results in an estimate of 6.5% of this population. The VA reports that there are currently 92,037 disabled veterans who will meet SB 1102's new criteria for the \$1 license fee. Assuming 6.5% or 5,982 of these disabled veterans avail themselves of the reduced license fee of \$1, the potential annual revenue loss experienced by the Fish Fund is estimated to be \$119,640.