

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. Senate Bill 272

PRINTER NO. 254

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

Fish Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

February 24, 2021

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Mastriano

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 272 amends Title 30 (Fish) providing for free fishing licenses for certain 100% disabled first responders residing in Pennsylvania.

To qualify for a free license, the individual must be a 100% disabled first responder who is a resident of Pennsylvania with a disability that was incurred in the line of duty. The issuing agent or Fish & Boat Commission (commission) may require production of a disability determination from a licensed physician in the state. As defined in Senate Bill 272, first responder is an individual who serves as a member of a police department, fire department or rescue agency in the Commonwealth.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

According to the commission, enactment of Senate Bill 272 will have a minimal negative fiscal impact on the Fish Fund by reducing the amount of fishing license revenue. For every 100 fishing licenses that are issued for free, the commission will realize \$2,100 less in revenue annually.

In addition, this legislation could negatively impact the amount of federal grant funding the commission receives. Under federal regulations, a state fish and wildlife agency must receive a minimum amount of revenue from a license holder for the license holder to be included in a count of Pennsylvania licenses. To the extent that federal grants are allocated based on the number of fishing licenses issued by states and Pennsylvania's relative share of paying fishing licenses declines as a result of this legislation, the commission could receive reduced federal grant awards.