

Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

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FISCAL NOTE

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H.58 An Act Relating to Awarding Hunting and Fishing Licenses at No Cost to Persons 65 Years of Age or Older

Summary

The bill proposes to lower the age, from 70 to 65 years, at which a permanent or free license may be acquired by a Vermont resident.

The 65 year old Vermont resident could obtain one or all of the following:

- A permanent fishing license
- A combination hunting and fishing licenses, if qualified. Includes all big game licenses with the except of a moose license
- A trapping license, if qualified
- An archery license, if qualified.

The age limit change would take effect upon passage of the bill.

Analysis

In 2015 the Department of Fish and Wildlife performed analysis to determine the revenue impact of a change from acquisition of a permanent license at 65 and a one-time application fee of \$50 to the current law of 70 and free. The revenues that would be generated by the cohort 65-69 were calculated based on the average amount spent on licenses annually. The positive revenue anticipated under current law would now be a revenue loss to the department. The anticipated revenue loss by age group is summarized in the table below:

Table 1: Estimated Average Amount Spent on Licenses Annually by Age Group

Age	Amount (\$2015)
65	74,000
66	69,560
67	65,386
68	61,463
69	57,775
Total	328,185

The proposed change in the age at which a Vermont resident could obtain a free hunting license from 70 to 65, would result in a revenue loss of approximately \$0.33 million dollars per year.