



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 365

PRINTER'S NO. 332

PRIME SPONSOR: Neilson

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24
Fish Fund	\$0	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY: HB 365 PN 332 provides an exemption from Fishing License requirements, for individuals participating in therapeutic recreational programs. This legislation would take effect in 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 as a treatment modality. Currently the Commission provides license fee exemptions only for educational programs.

Currently, 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. HB 365 PN 332 provides an exemption for these programs.

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

<u>CY 2023 License</u>	<u>CY 2024 License (starting December 1, 2023)</u>
\$23.50	\$26.00 (annual PA resident fishing license)
\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00 (federal reimbursement for fishing license sale)
\$10.50	\$13.00 (trout permit accompanying a fishing license)
\$39.00	\$44.00 Total Cost

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission grants between 60-100 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, reduction of revenues to the Fish Fund could be less than \$5,000.

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House Appropriations Committee (D)

DATE: May 23, 2023

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