


Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Jeffrey S. DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Jeffrey S. DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: November 6, 2020

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – 1666 Articles of Peace and Amity
Recognition Amendment Act of 2020

REFERENCE: Bill 23-548, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue
Analysis on November 2, 2020

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2021 through fiscal year 2024 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

The Mayor is responsible for protecting the District's aquatic plants and animals for the benefit of recreation, industry, and aesthetic enjoyment. In doing so, the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), on behalf of the Mayor, issues licenses or permits for individuals or scientific research entities to hunt, fish, or capture fish in the District waters. The Mayor issues calendar year recreational licenses to residents and non-residents as well as short-term licenses. The Mayor may also authorize an independent establishment to sell recreational fishing licenses on behalf of the District.

The bill requires the Mayor to provide fishing licenses or authorize independent establishments to sell licenses at no cost to enrolled members of the Piscataway Indian Nation or the Piscataway Conoy Tribe. The Piscataway tribes were guaranteed hunting and fishing rights through the Articles of Peace and Amity,¹ signed in 1666 with colonists in Maryland.

¹ <https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000002/html/am2--25.html>.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2021 through fiscal year 2024 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. DOEE issued approximately 7,000 fishing licenses annually from calendar years 2018 to 2020. DOEE also authorizes anywhere from five to ten independent establishments to sell recreational licenses on behalf of the District each year. Revenues from fishing licenses are deposited into the Fishing Licenses Fund² and have averaged over \$91,000 over the last four years.

When the Piscataway tribes were formally recognized by the State of Maryland in 2012, the Piscataway-Conoy Tribe estimated that it had approximately 5,000 members.³ There are no estimates of how many Piscataway members regularly purchase fishing licenses in the District, but any negative impacts on revenue from paying Piscataway members who will now receive a license for free is expected to be de minimis. DOEE will need to update its online application and create a commemorative lifetime license for the Piscataway Indian Nation and Piscataway Conoy Tribe, but the agency can absorb those costs within its existing budgeted resources.

² Fisheries and Wildlife Omnibus Amendment Act of 2016, effective May 19, 2017 (D.C. Law 21-282; D.C. Official Code § 8-103.03a).

³ <https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/bs-xpm-2012-01-09-bs-md-omalley-tribes-20120109-story.html>.