

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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HB-6484

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN HARVESTING OF HORSESHOE
CRABS.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Revenue Loss	Up to 240	Up to 240

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill prohibits the hand-harvesting of horseshoe crabs, while allowing for certain education and medical-related exemptions. This is expected to result in an annual General Fund revenue loss of up to \$240 beginning in FY 24, associated with the anticipated reduction of hand-harvesting endorsement revenues collected by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

During the 2022 horseshoe crab season, there were 16 hand-harvest endorsement holders, with endorsements expiring on December 31, 2022. Endorsement holders must renew their license for the upcoming summer 2023 season by March 31, 2023; year-to-date, nine have renewed. The endorsement's annual cost to the holder, and corresponding revenue to the state, is \$15.

Additionally, the bill subjects someone to a \$25 fine for each horseshoe crab collected in violation of the bill. As there have been no violations and no revenue associated with this penalty under current law, which applies for hand-harvesting without an endorsement when

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discovered by the agency's Environmental Conservation (EnCon) fisheries patrol, this provision is not anticipated to have a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the set fee associated with the hand-harvest endorsements, the number of endorsements issued, and the number of violations.