147TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	HOUSE BILL NO. 160
SPONSOR:	Representative Schwartzkopf
DESCRIPTION:	AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 3 AND TITLE 7 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO AQUACULTURE.

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. Effective upon the signature of the Governor.

2. This Act authorizes the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control to direct and control the shellfish aquaculture activities within the Inland Bays. The Department shall promulgate regulations on issuing and administering leases, set criteria for the approval of lease sites and applications for leasing, determine what species may be cultured and where, prescribe limits on the type and nature of gear that may be used on leased sites, define what would constitute abandonment of leased sites, and establish criteria for importation of shellfish to be used for aquaculture purposes in order to protect wild shellfish.

3. The Department estimates it will require approximately $75,000 in contractual personnel in the first year of program operation growing to $141,500 in the out-years. These personnel shall administer the program to include, but not be limited to, promulgate regulations; habitat restoration of oyster and clam populations by planting shell; the regulation, authorization and enforcement of shellfish aquaculture leases, the required marking and inspection of lease sites, and prevention and control of shellfish borne diseases.

4. This Act also provides for a $100.00/acre shellfish lease for Delaware residents and a $1,000.00/acre shellfish lease for non-residents. The Department estimates lease revenue of $5,000 in Fiscal Year 2015 and $7,500 in Fiscal Year 2016.

Cost:

Fiscal Year 2014	$75,000
Fiscal Year 2015	$141,500 ($136,500 GF, $5,000 ASF)
Fiscal Year 2016	$141,500 ($134,000 GF, $7,500 ASF)

Office of Controller General (Amounts are shown in whole dollars)
June 10, 2013
JRG:
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