

HB 1314-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2954

08/06

HOUSE BILL ***1314-FN***

AN ACT enabling minors to apply for a freshwater fishing application without paying a fee.

SPONSORS: Rep. H. Howard, Straf. 4; Rep. Ankarberg, Straf. 7; Rep. Wade, Straf. 15; Rep. Spillane, Rock. 2; Rep. Thibault, Merr. 25; Rep. Coker, Belk. 2; Rep. D. Germana, Ches. 1; Sen. Fenton, Dist 10

COMMITTEE: Fish and Game and Marine Resources

ANALYSIS

This bill enables minors to apply for a freshwater fishing application without paying a fee.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT enabling minors to apply for a freshwater fishing application without paying a fee.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Section; Licenses for Minors. Amend RSA 214 by inserting after section 6-a the following
2 new section:

3 214:6-b Licenses for Minors. Any resident of this state who is under 18 years of age may, upon
4 presentation of proof of age, make application to the executive director of fish and game for a special
5 license to take and to transport fish, under the restrictions of this title. Such license shall be marked
6 in such manner as the executive director may designate and there shall be no fee for such license.

7 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**HB 1314-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT enabling minors to apply for a freshwater fishing application without paying a fee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenue	\$0	\$235,000 Per Year Decrease		
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	Fish and Game Fund, Fisheries Habitat Management Account			
Expenditures*	\$0	Up to \$20,000 to \$40,000	Up to \$10,000 to \$30,000 per year	
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	Fish and Game Fund, Fisheries Habitat Management Account			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

*Expenditure = Cost of bill

*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

METHODOLOGY:

This bill enables minors to apply for a freshwater fishing application without paying a fee. The Fish and Game Department states that over the past five years, it has collected an average of approximately \$235,000 per year for 16- and 17-year-old licenses. Of this revenue, the Department estimates \$230,000 is credited to the Fish and Game Fund and \$5,000 to the Fisheries Habitat Management Account.

Regarding expenditures, the Department states it incurs a \$2 per license fee, paid to an outside vendor for producing licenses. To the extent this bill could generate additional licensees, the Department could incur additional costs (\$10,000 to \$30,000 per year). Lastly, the Department states it would incur, in FY 2027, a one-time new license development fee (less than \$10,000).

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Fish and Game Department