

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 233-0696  
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6492**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 159

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 12, 2005

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Department of Natural Resources Employees.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Simpson

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**  **GENERAL**  
 **DEDICATED**  
 **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill provides that employees of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), except for the director, the highest position in each division, and conservation officers, are merit employees. It requires the State Personnel Department (SPD) to work with the DNR to provide for a transition for current employees. The bill repeals provisions establishing the nonmerit status of DNR employees.

**Effective Date:** Upon passage.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** Shifting DNR employees from nonmerit to merit employees would have no fiscal impact to the DNR in terms of salaries and fringe benefits. The SPD, however, could experience an increase in administrative expenses associated with developing position classification plans. The SPD could also experience an increase in administrative expenses associated with helping employees find employment with other state agencies if the employees no longer qualify for their jobs under the classification plans. The impact would depend on the nature of assistance offered by the SPD. It is presumed that the SPD could develop classification plans given its existing resources and staff.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** SPD; DNR.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Bernadette Bartlett, 317-232-9586.