

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

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7287

BILL NUMBER: HB 1226

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 17, 2007

BILL AMENDED: Jan 11, 2007

SUBJECT: Payment for Hunting or Fishing Without a License.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Grubb

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Steele

BILL STATUS: As Passed House

FUNDS AFFECTED: GENERAL
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill allows a person who is issued a citation or summons for hunting, fishing, or trapping without a license to (1) pay the conservation officer the fine and court costs; and (2) purchase from the conservation officer a hunting, fishing, or trapping license. The bill establishes a convenience fee, which is to be deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Fund.

Effective Date: July 1, 2007.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill provides that if a conservation officer issues a citation or summons to a person who hunts, fishes, or traps without a license, the person may immediately pay the conservation officer the amount due for the violation, plus a convenience fee of \$10. The person may also immediately purchase from the conservation officer a hunting, fishing, or trapping license at the price of the license, plus a convenience fee of \$10. The conservation officer must issue a receipt to a person who pays for a violation or purchases a license. The conservation officer must accept a credit card payment. If a person uses a credit card to make a payment, the conservation officer must charge an additional credit card transaction fee that is determined by the Natural Resources Commission.

The proposal may increase administrative expenses for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). However, the DNR should be able to offset any additional administrative expenses with revenue generated by transaction and convenience fees.

Explanation of State Revenues: (Revised) Based on the number of citations issued in 2006, which was a total of 3,625, if every person opted to pay the conservation officer the \$10 convenience fee for immediate payment of the fine plus the \$10 for the immediate purchase of a license, the fees would generate \$72,500.

The bill could also increase revenue generated from the purchase of licenses. Convenience fee revenue would be deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Fund, which is used to finance the operations of the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Division of Law Enforcement.

Number of Tickets Given for All Species to Hunters, Trappers, and Anglers			
Activity	2004	2005	2006
Trapping	6	11	9
Fishing	3,474	3,500	3,244
Hunting	434	425	372
TOTAL	3,914	3,936	3,625
Note: Data include citations given to resident and nonresidents.			

Existing Practices: The conservation officer would be required to collect the existing fines and court costs. An example of fines and costs associated with a fishing citation are given below.

Court Costs: State	\$49.00
Court Costs: County	18.90
Infraction Judgment	20.00
Document Fees	2.00
City and Town Fines	2.10
Clerk's Record Perpetuation Fund	7.00
Public Defense Administration Fee	3.00
Jury Fee	2.00
County User Fees	3.00
Judicial Insurance Adjustment Fee	1.00
Judicial Salaries Fee	16.00
DNA Sample Processing Fees	2.00
Court Administration Fees	3.00
TOTAL	\$129.00

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: DNR.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources:

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