

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7033

BILL NUMBER: HB 1683

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 23, 2009

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Game Preserve Licenses.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Wolkins

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: *Licensing of Game Preserves.* This bill provides for the licensing and operation of game preserves in which privately owned cervidae and game birds may be hunted.

Auctioning of Licenses. It provides for the auctioning of 10 licenses to operate game preserves and establishes \$50,000 as the minimum bid for a license. The bill requires the director of the Indiana Office of Management and Budget to conduct the auction.

License Fee. Game preserve owners are required (1) to pay a yearly license renewal fee, which is to be deposited into a Hunter Safety Education Fund; and (2) to provide facilities for an annual hunter education course. The owner of a game preserve is not required to possess a game breeder's license or shooting preserve license. The bill restricts the sale and transfer of ownership of an ownership interest in a game preserve. It establishes requirements for the operation of game preserves.

Inspection of Game Preserves. It provides for the inspection of game preserves by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the State Board of Animal Health (SBAH). The bill establishes record keeping requirements. A game preserve license that has been revoked may not be reissued.

Hunter Safety Education Fund. The bill establishes the Hunter Safety Education Fund.

Technical Correction. The bill makes a technical correction.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Summary of NET State Impact: Additional expenditures resulting from the bill are estimated at less than \$5,000. Revenue generated could be \$500,000 for the first year and around \$20,000 each year thereafter

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Licensing of Game Preserves.* Two or more persons can be co-owners of a game preserve. The DNR must issue initial game preserve licenses, renew licenses, and provide hunting preserve transportation tags. Any sale or transfer of a licensed game preserve must be reported, in writing, to the DNR. The DNR must inspect each game preserve annually. The DNR would have additional expenditures related to staff time needed to inspect and issue licenses. The DNR spends 4 to 6 hours per inspection, and for the larger pens it can take two officers to complete an inspection. Inspections can range from \$88 to \$264 per pen. The total costs of inspections would range from \$880 to \$2,640 on an annual basis. Overall expenses associated with the administration of the bill are estimated at less than \$3,000.

Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The OMB director must conduct an auction for game preserve licenses. The director shall give public notice of each auction. Before placing a bid, a person must register with the director and provide the director with the person's name and address. If a winning bid for a game preserve license is not paid within the period allowed, the director may reactivate the game preserve license. The director must forward to the DNR the names of the winning bidders with other information. These provisions will increase administrative expenses for the OMB. Additional costs are estimated at less than \$1,000.

Hunter Safety Education Fund. The bill establishes the Hunter Safety Education Fund to provide instruction in hunter safety, principles of conservation, and sportsmanship; and to pay for administrative expenses associated with the fund. Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert to the state General Fund.

Explanation of State Revenues: *Auctioning of Licenses.* Each of the 10 licenses would cost an applicant a minimum of \$50,000, for a total of at least \$500,000 assuming all licenses were sold. This revenue would be deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Fund, which is used to fund the operations of the DNR Divisions of Fish & Wildlife and Enforcement.

Transportation tags would also have to be purchased at a cost of \$50 each for Indiana residents and \$100 each for non-residents for each deer that is taken on a preserve. This revenue would also be deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Fund, and could amount to approximately \$20,000 per year.

Hunter Safety Education Fund. License renewals would cost each applicant \$2,000 each year, and this fee would be deposited in the new Hunter Safety Education Fund. The amount of revenue that would be generated by renewals would equal \$20,000. The fund consists of renewal fees, appropriations, and grants and gifts. The State Treasurer must invest the money in the fund that is not currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same manner as other public funds may be invested. The State Treasurer must deposit in the fund the interest that accrues from the investment of the fund. Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert to the state General Fund.

Game Breeders Licenses. The owner of a game preserve license is not required to possess a game breeder's license or a shooting preserve license. The fee for a game breeders license is \$15. The fee for a shooting preserve is \$100. Decrease in revenue would equal at most \$1,000.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: DNR, SBAH.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: DNR.

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