

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

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7353**

**BILL NUMBER: SB 545**

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 13, 2009

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Fish and wildlife matters.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Mishler

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**  GENERAL  
 DEDICATED  
 FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** *Controlled Hunts.* This bill eliminates the provision under which a controlled hunt in a state park can be established only through the adoption of an emergency rule.

*Compensation for Game Bird Land.* This bill increases the maximum compensation that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may provide under contract for the use of property in a game bird habitat plan from \$100 to \$200 per acre.

*License to Fish for under 18.* This bill provides that a person less than 18 years of age does not need a license to fish. (To fish without a license under current law, a person must be less than 17 years of age.)

*Free Hunting Days for Those under 18.* A resident who is less than 18 years of age may participate in free hunting days for young hunters. (To participate under current law, a person must be less than 16 years of age.)

*Youth Trapping.* This bill adds trapping to the activities allowed under a yearly resident youth consolidated license.

*Commercial Fishing on the Ohio.* This bill eliminates the requirement that DNR rules regulating commercial fishing in the Ohio River conform to the laws of Kentucky.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2009.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Controlled Hunts.* Eliminating the need for the adoption of an

emergency rule in order to conduct a controlled hunt could decrease administrative expenses by a minimal amount.

*Compensation for Game Bird Land.* Increasing the maximum compensation from \$100 to \$200 per acre could result in a maximum increase in expenditures of around \$140,000, based on a 4-year average.

*Background.*

<b>Number of Habitat Improvement Contracts on Private Lands Using Game Bird Dollars Statewide</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Number of Contracts</b>	<b>Acres Developed</b>	<b>Acres Developed Multiplied by \$100 Potential Increase</b>
2005	\$97,009	119	2,173	\$217,300
2006	\$58,176	77	1,311	\$131,100
2007	\$29,462	57	526	\$52,600
2008	\$68,955	93	1,647	\$164,700
Average	\$63,400	86	1,414	\$141,400

The numbers of contracts and acres developed vary each year based on the ability of landowners to get projects completed. Development is dependant on weather, especially spring rain and/or flooding, etc.

<b>DNR Number of Properties Enrolled in Game Bird Habitat Restoration Program and Number of Acres</b>		
<b>Season</b>	<b>Number of Tracts</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>
2005	48	3,198
2006	48	3,174
2007	46	3,119
2008	36	2,815

<b>Number of Game Bird Stamps sold at \$6.75 each</b>	
<b>Season</b>	<b>Number Sold</b>
2005	31,687
2006	33,222
2007	32,751
2008	31,388

**Explanation of State Revenues:** *Summary*–License fee revenue loss is estimated at \$83,607. License fees are deposited in the Fish & Wildlife Fund which is used to finance the operations of the DNR divisions of Fish & Wildlife and Enforcement.

*License to Fish for under 18.* A person less than 18 does not need a license to fish. (To fish without a license under current law, a person must be less than 17 years of age.)

In FY 2008, the number of fishing licenses (youth combo, fishing, or trout) sold to 17 year olds equaled 7,318, which generated \$76,990 in revenue.

*Free Hunting Days for Those under 18.* A resident who is less than 18 years of age may participate in free hunting days for young hunters. (To participate under current law, a person must be less than 16 years of age.) The DNR hosts 4 free hunting days for youth per year. This provision will result in a reduction in revenue. The impact is indeterminable because the number of youth affected is indeterminable.

*Youth Trapping.* This bill adds trapping to the activities allowed under a yearly resident youth consolidated license. In FY 2008, 382 trapping licenses were sold to individuals under 18 years of age, which generated \$6,617 in revenue.

*Commercial Fishing on the Ohio.* Eliminating the requirement that DNR rules regulating commercial fishing in the Ohio River conform to the laws of Kentucky will likely have little impact. The impact would depend on how the laws of Kentucky change in the future.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** DNR.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** DNR.

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