

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7353

BILL NUMBER: SB 545

NOTE PREPARED: Mar 23, 2009

BILL AMENDED: Feb 2, 2009

SUBJECT: Fish and Wildlife Matters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Mishler

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Bischoff

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 2nd House

FUNDS AFFECTED: GENERAL
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) *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.

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: (Revised) *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.

Explanation of State Revenues: (Revised) *Summary*— License fee revenue loss is estimated at more than

\$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.

Background.

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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