

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6442**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 153

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 18, 2011

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Disabled veteran hunting and fishing licenses.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Steele

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** \_\_\_ GENERAL  
                          **X** DEDICATED  
                          **X** FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill establishes a reduced fee lifetime hunting, fishing, and trapping license for residents who have a service-connected disability.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2011.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:** The bill provides that a qualified veteran may obtain a lifetime license to hunt, fish, and trap by paying a reduced license fee of \$50.

Currently, a veteran with a service-connected disability may purchase an annual fishing license for \$2.75; an annual small game hunting license for \$17; and an annual license to trap for \$17. If the veteran qualified, the veteran could purchase a senior fish-for-life license for a fee of \$17.

The reduction in state revenue that would occur as a result of the proposal will depend on the number of qualifying veterans who apply to purchase the lifetime license compared with the number and type of license, if any, that the veteran would have otherwise purchased. The Department of Veterans Affairs indicated that there are approximately 52,000 Indiana veterans with a service-connected disability. (Additional information will be provided when it becomes available.)

In addition to a state revenue loss, the DNR would also see a reduction in federal revenue. In order to receive federal reimbursement for each license sold, the DNR must charge a fee that is commensurate with the normal cost for that privilege. Therefore, in addition to a potential loss in state license revenue, the DNR

would also lose federal reimbursement for each lifetime license sold because of the inability to certify those hunters beyond the first year the license was sold. The DNR received \$29.82 for each certified hunter in 2010 in sport wildlife restoration monies.

Revenue from the sale of hunting licenses goes into the dedicated Fish and Wildlife Fund that is used to pay the operating expenses of the DNR Divisions of Law Enforcement and Fish and Wildlife.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** DNR.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** DNR; Department of Veterans Affairs.

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