



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: H. 3601 Signed by Governor on May 19, 2017
Author: Clemmons
Subject: Bear hunting
Requestor: House of Representatives
RFA Analyst(s): Kokolis
Impact Date: July 21, 2017

Estimate of Fiscal Impact

	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19
State Expenditure		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	\$0	\$0
Full-Time Equivalent Position(s)	0.00	0.00
State Revenue		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	See Below	\$0
Local Expenditure	\$0	\$0
Local Revenue	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds, as it does not significantly alter the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) responsibilities for regulating bear hunting. This bill will result in an Other Funds revenue reduction of \$2,450 due to removal of the \$10 random drawing application fee for bear tags. However, the department anticipates that the increased demand for bear tags will offset this loss.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Signed by Governor on May 19, 2017

State Expenditure

This bill removes the required random drawing and \$10 application fee for bear tags from game zones two through four. Penalties for violations have been reduced from a maximum of two years imprisonment plus fines to six months imprisonment plus fines. The magistrate's court retains concurrent jurisdiction for offenses contained in this section. DNR shall provide a report by July 1, 2018, related to the harvesting of black bears in all game zones.

Department of Natural Resources. The department indicates this bill will have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds. While there are annual expenditures associated with hunter training and materials, they can accommodate the bill's requirements without additional resources. Earmarked revenues from the purchase of bear tags will provide for the required bear harvesting report. The department indicates that compliance and violation enforcement will not require additional resources.

State Revenue

In 2016, 245 application fees of \$10 each were paid to obtain bear tags in a random drawing, totaling \$2,450. Winners purchased 107 bear tags out of 170 eligible drawn at random, for a total of \$2,675. All 107 bear tags were purchased by resident hunters for \$25 each. The revenue from bear tags goes toward program administration and research. While the future demand for bear tags is unknown, the department anticipates an increase in demand as a result of removing the \$10 random drawing fee. This increase in demand is expected to offset the loss of the random drawing application fee.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director