



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: S. 0575 Signed by Governor on May 16, 2019
Author: Campsen
Subject: Hunting and Taking of Wild Turkey
Requestor: Senate
RFA Analyst(s): Gallagher and Gardner
Impact Date: September 9, 2019

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill will increase the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) recurring Other Funds revenue by \$665,770 through the issuance of a fee for wild turkey transportation tags. This revenue will be used for wild turkey scientific research, improving habitat and hunting opportunities on public lands, predator control, and enforcement of wild turkey laws and regulations. Revenue funds will be deposited in the Fish & Wildlife Protection Fund - Turkeys. Of these funds, DNR anticipates it will expend \$60,000 on tag fulfillment and \$68,000 on turkey research in FY 2020-21. The use of tag receipts to support tag fulfillment and research will allow approximately \$98,000 in federal grants to be reprogrammed to fund wildlife management research for other species in FY 2020-21.

This bill will increase DNR's non-recurring and recurring General Fund expenses by an undetermined amount, contingent upon responses to the department's request for proposals for the development and implementation of an electronic turkey harvest reporting system. Additional information is expected to be available in December 2019 regarding these expenses.

This bill will have no impact on the Judicial Department's General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds. The department indicates that the misdemeanor created in this bill will be handled in magistrate and municipal courts, as such it is not expected to have an expenditure impact on the Judicial Department.

This bill will have an undetermined impact on magistrate and municipal courts' expenditures. The misdemeanor created in this bill is expected to increase the caseload within these courts. However, as this bill creates a new offense, there is no data available upon which to estimate the number of hearings or trials that may be initiated.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Signed by Governor on May 16, 2019

State Expenditure

This bill establishes a fee for wild turkey tags, amends the season for hunting male wild turkey, limits the seasonal number of wild turkey tags to three for residents and two for nonresidents, and limits the daily bag limit for male wild turkeys to one. The bill further states that it is unlawful to take a female wild turkey, changes regulations regarding Youth Turkey Day, and requires fees collected for wild turkey tags to be used for specific research and conservation purposes as well as the printing and mailing of the wild turkey tags.

Department of Natural Resources. This bill requires DNR to provide an annual report on wild turkey resources to the Chairman of the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee and the Chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Further, DNR is tasked with implementing an electronic harvest reporting system in order to document the harvest of wild turkeys and to assist with the enforcement of seasons, methods of harvest, and bag limits. An individual who harvests a wild turkey must report the harvest to the electronic harvest reporting system as prescribed by the department. Further, any individual who violates the laws enumerated in this bill, including failure to report a harvest to DNR's electronic harvest reporting system, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

DNR anticipates this bill will increase non-recurring Other Funds expenses by an undetermined amount, contingent upon responses to the department's request for proposals for the development and implementation of the wild turkey electronic harvest reporting system. Additional information is expected to be available in December 2019 regarding these expenses.

Judicial Department. This bill creates a new misdemeanor offense for individuals who violate provisions established by DNR for electronic harvest reporting and imposes a fine of up to \$25. The department indicates that the offenses in this bill will be handled in magistrate and municipal courts and is expected to increase the caseload within those courts. As such, this bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on the Judicial Department.

State Revenue

Department of Natural Resources. This bill establishes a fee for wild turkey transportation tags, and requires that any fees collected for these tags be used for specific wild turkey research and conservation purposes. The fee is \$5 per resident for three tags, and \$100 per nonresident for two tags. Of these fees, \$1 may be retained by the license sales vendor. Youth under 16, lifetime licensees, and gratis licensees are exempt from paying the fee. The department estimates this fee would result in a recurring Other Funds revenue increase of \$665,770 based upon an estimated 33,535 resident and 5,370 nonresident annual tag requests. This value assumes that each license sales vendor will retain \$1 of these fees. These funds will be deposited into the Fish & Wildlife Protection Fund - Turkey account. Of this revenue, the department expects to expend \$60,000 for tag fulfillment and \$68,000 for turkey research in FY 2020-21. The use of turkey tag receipts to support tag fulfillment and research will allow approximately \$98,000 in federal grants to be reprogrammed to fund wildlife management research for other species in FY 2020-21.

Judicial Department. This bill creates a new misdemeanor offense for individuals who violate provisions established by DNR for electronic harvest reporting and imposes a fine of up to \$25. These cases would be heard in magistrate courts. As there is no data with which to estimate the potential increase in caseloads for these courts, the revenue impact resulting from this fine cannot be determined.

Local Expenditure

Magistrate and Municipal Courts. The offense created by this bill will be handled in magistrate and municipal courts, and is expected to increase the caseload within those courts. However, as this bill creates a new offense, there is no data available upon which to estimate the

number of hearings or trials that may be initiated. As such, the expenditure impact of this bill on magistrate and municipal courts is undetermined.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director