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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/18/13
 LAST UPDATED 02/01/13 HB 61/HENRCS

SPONSOR HENRC

SHORT TITLE Game & Fish Special Event Permits SB _____

ANALYST McCoy

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY13	FY14	FY15		
	Minimal	Minimal	Recurring	

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Game and Fish (DGF)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

The House Energy & Natural Resources Committee substitute for House Bill 61 allows the director of the DGF to waive fishing license requirements for up to three days for participants in events sanctioned by the DGF. The substitute bill also specifies that all other laws and rules would apply to those participating in such special events.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The DGF notes, the committee substitute would enhance the ability of the Department to conduct outreach activities and recruit new anglers to buy licenses in the future. According to the DGF, although the sole source of non-federal revenues is derived from the sale of hunting, fishing and other wildlife-related licenses and permits, the fiscal impact to agency revenues of allowing the director to temporarily waive license or permit requirements for special events, is of indeterminate but minimal fiscal impact given the periodic and temporary nature of the special events.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Currently, only fishing license requirements are allowed to be suspended during the free-fishing program that occurs two days each year. The DGF periodically offers educational events or

training to encourage adoption of hunting, fishing or trapping as activities, but the agency requires participants to have the appropriate license.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The DGF reports, a minimal amount of time to review proposed events and write authorizing letters for the director's signature would be required.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The DGF notes, at present, only fishing licensing requirements are allowed to be suspended, and only during the free-fishing days program that takes place two days each year. In all other circumstances, the agency must require participants to have the appropriate license. As currently written, the law does not allow the agency to waive licensing requirements in order to conduct public outreach, training and education by means of special events other than the free-fishing days program. According to the DGF, if this bill is not enacted, the agency will continue to miss opportunities to recruit additional participants to the outdoor activities that fund fish and wildlife conservation in the state.

MTM/svb