

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR HENRC DATE TYPED 3/17/05 HB 78/HENRCS/aHTRC/aSFC

SHORT TITLE Game Commission Habitat Acquisition & Fees SB _____

ANALYST Aguilar

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	NFI		Indeterminate	Recurring	Habitat Management fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE

Estimated Revenue		Subsequent Years Impact	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06			
	\$840.0 - \$900.0	\$840.0 - \$900.0	Recurring	Habitat Management Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Game and Fish (DGF)

Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SFC Amendment

The Senate Finance Committee amendment to House Bill 78 as previously amended, reduces the cost of the Habitat Management Stamp fee from \$5.00 annually to \$3.00 annually. The amendment also creates an exception that waives the requirement of this stamp for all individuals under the age of 18.

Synopsis of HTRC Amendment

The House Taxation and Revenue Committee amendment to the House Energy and Natural Re-

sources Committee substitute for House Bill 78 changes the requirement that a license indicate whether a habitat stamp fee has been paid. The amendment provides for the licensee to demonstrate the habitat stamp fee has been paid.

Synopsis of Original Bill

The House Energy and Natural Resources Committee substitute for House Bill 78 provides for the improvement, maintenance, development and operation of property for fish and wildlife habitat, imposes a habitat acquisition and management fee, creates a fund and establishes the ability to request appropriations.

Significant Issues

The committee substitute limits the imposition of the habitat management fee to one fee per individual purchaser per year regardless of the number of applicable licenses received.

HENRCS/HB78 directs all funds received to the Habitat Management Fund. Money in the fund may be expended only upon appropriation by the legislature and only for the improvement, maintenance, development and operation of property for fish and wildlife habitat management.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

This would assist the Department in meeting a current performance measure under the Conservation Services Program to beneficially impact up to 100,000 acres of wildlife annually within the state.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

It is estimated that approximately 1.4 to 1.5 million dollars could be recognized annually for the State Game Commission to use for the improvement, maintenance, development and operation of property for fish and wildlife habitat.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Other administrative implications could include utilizing portions of current staff time to analyze and develop necessary projects for fish and wildlife habitat. This function is currently available within the Department.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The Department of Game and Fish notes the current wording of the committee substitute contains language regarding the stamp that could cause a conflict in interpretation. On page 6, lines 22 through 25, it appears that every license must contain the validation. On page 7, lines 1 through 4, the bill explain that people only need to pay one habitat improvement fee per year, regardless of the number of licenses they purchase. Please see amendments section below for a suggested resolution. The department proposes the following amendment for consideration by the Legislature:

On page 6, line 24, strike the words **“it indicates”** and replace them with the words **“the license**

holder can demonstrate”. This would make it clearer that a validation or stamp from one license can serve as proof for another license held by the same person.

PA/yr:lg