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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Hanosh DATE TYPED 2/1/05 HB 203

SHORT TITLE Game & Fish Liability Suspense Account SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Aguilar

### REVENUE

Estimated Revenue		Subsequent Years Impact	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06			
	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Recurring	Game Protection Funds

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Revenue Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Department of Game and Fish (DGF)

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 203 creates a suspense account from which the Department of Game and Fish, in certain circumstances, may refund hunting license fees. Circumstances eligible for refund consideration include cases of death, disability or military deployment. The bill also authorizes the director to transfer hunting licenses when the licensee has died, is disabled, is deployed in the military or when a licensee wishes to donate their license to a nonprofit agency approved by the State Game Commission.

#### Significant Issues

The Department of Game and Fish reports a number of requests are received annually from hunting license holders for refunds or transfers of licenses for a variety of reasons. Current statutes do not provide a mechanism for honoring these requests. The only reference in current law to refunds of licenses purchased comes from an Attorney General's opinion. This reference in the compilers' notes states that there are no provisions for reimbursement of license fees in any circumstance. Many of the requests submitted are due to a hunter's death, disability or military ac-

tivation. This bill would provide a way to refund or transfer licenses issued to hunters experiencing these situations. It would also define the circumstances under which license holder could donate their license to a non-profit wish-making organization.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

The bill would provide the department with the authorization necessary to honor requests from the public that current statutes do not accommodate. HB 203 does not directly relate to the department's performance measures, but increasing flexibility in this area should lead to increased satisfaction with the department's customer service.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Providing refunds to license holders not currently eligible to receive these refunds may have an impact to the agency's revenues. It is not expected to be a significant impact on overall revenues.

**PA/lg**