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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**SPONSOR** Jennings      **DATE TYPED** 2/16/2005      **HB** \_\_\_\_\_

**SHORT TITLE** Raise Nonresident Game & Fish License Fees      **SB** 336

**ANALYST** Aguilar

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$709.0			Recurring	Game Protection Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Conflicts with HB-47, SB-16, SB-77

### REVENUE

Estimated Revenue		Subsequent Years Impact	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06			
	Indeterminate	\$1,500.0	Recurring	Game Protection Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Revenue Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
Department of Game & Fish (DGF)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 336 Senate Bill 2 raises license fees for certain non-resident and temporary hunting and fishing licenses.

Senate Bill 336 appropriates \$709 thousand from the game protection fund to the Department of Game and Fish for the purpose of providing salary increases for game and fish law enforcement commissioned conservation officers, clerical, secretarial, and farm and ranch workers of the department.

The bill makes the appropriation contingent upon the department adopting a tiered salary schedule for all employees based on experience and job qualifications; and with respect to commissioned law enforcement officers, based on education, experience and risk. DGF is directed to request the state personnel office to reclassify commissioned officers or to assign them to an alternative pay band.

### Significant Issues

The fee increases included in SB 336 are expected to generate approximately \$1.5 million annually.

The Department of Game and Fish generates the majority of its revenue through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, with fees fixed by statute. Inflation and appropriations for nonrecurring projects have caused overall expenditures to surpass revenues, reducing cash balances in the fund. This has produced a situation where increasing revenue has become a priority. Increasing license fees is one way the department has identified to generate additional revenue.

The license fees amended in this bill are sold during the hunting and fishing license year that runs from April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>. The licenses for the 2005-2006 license year have already been ordered and printed and the computer systems have been programmed. The agency notes the fee increases should be implemented on April 1, 2006 in order to allow for production of printed materials and updates to computer systems.

The department in 2004 implemented a salary adjustment for conservation officers to deal with salary compaction issues. In addition the department has completed a study of conservation officer compensation. To date, the State Personnel Office has not been contacted to consider reclassifying these positions.

The department has also completed a comprehensive study of salaries agency wide. At this time, no action has been taken regarding the study.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$709 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the game protection fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2006 shall revert to the game protection fund.

### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

SB 336 conflicts with HB-47, SB-16 and SB-77. All four bills amend the same section of law.

**TECHNICAL ISSUES**

The Department requests that this bill be amended to include an effective date of April 1, 2006. The current version of the bill does not specify an effective date, which would provide for implementation during 2005. In order to allow time for printed materials to be changed and computer systems to be updated, the April 2006 effective date is needed.

**PA/njw**