

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 Altamirano ORIGINAL DATE 1-22-07
 LAST UPDATED 2-21-07 HB _____
 SHORT TITLE Governor's Game and Fish Authorizations SB 87/aSCONC/aSFC/aSFL#1
 ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
none	none		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08	FY09		
	25.0-50.0	25.0-50.0	Recurring	Game Protection Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HB 212

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Game and Fish (DGF)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SFL Amendment #1

Senate Floor Amendment Number 1 to Senate Bill 87/aSCONC/aSFC amends the legislation to reflect the following language:

1. On page 2, line 7, insert a period after the word "fund" and strike the remainder of the line and all of line 8 through the period.

The amendment adds no appropriation language to the bill.

Synopsis of SFC Amendment

DGF indicates (2-19-07) that Senate Conservation Committee amendment to Senate Bill 87/aSCONC amends the legislation to allow the Director of the Game and Fish Department (Director) to provide a number of authorizations to the Governor, annually, to be allocated by auction, for the express purpose of raising funds for fish and wildlife conservation. The bill directs the State Game Commission to adopt rules regarding the Governor's auctioning of these authorizations. Funds raised through these auctions would be deposited into the Game Protection Fund and used only for fish and wildlife conservation. The Director would designate the species allowable for each authorization with no more than three authorizations issued for any one species during any single license year. Each authorization would allow the holder to purchase a license to hunt or fish for the species indicated on the authorizations during the dates and times and locations specified by the State Game Commission.

Synopsis of SCONC Amendment

Senate Conservation Committee amendment to Senate Bill 87 amends the legislation to reflect the following language:

1. On page 1, line 12, strike "AT THE DISCRETION OF" and insert in lieu thereof "FOR SPECIAL EVENTS CALLED BY".
2. On page 1, line 17, strike "TWELVE BIG GAME" and insert in lieu thereof "HUNTING AND FISHING".
3. On page 1, line 18, strike "DISCRETION" and insert in lieu thereof "SPECIAL EVENTS".
4. On page 1, line 22, strike "transferable at the discretion of the governor" and insert in lieu thereof "allocated by lottery, auction or other competitive means".
5. On page 1, line 24, after the period insert: "Any lottery, auction or other competitive method used to allocate an authorization shall comply with rules adopted by the state game commission."
6. On page 2, lines 4 and 5, strike "shall be elk and no more than three shall be deer" and insert in lieu thereof "authorizations shall be issued for any one species".

The amendment adds no appropriation language to the bill.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 87 – Providing for Game and Fish Authorizations to be Issued at the Discretion of the Governor – adds a new section of Chapter 17, Article 3 NMSA 1978, as follows:

Twelve Big Game Authorizations – Governor's Discretion: The director of the department of game and fish may annually make available to the governor no more than twelve big game special authorizations and twelve game bird or trophy fish special authorizations. The authorizations shall be transferable at the discretion of the governor in conjunction with special events called by the governor to raise money for fish and wildlife

conservation. Each authorization shall allow the holder to purchase a license to hunt or fish for the species indicated on the authorization during dates and times at locations specified by the state game commission. The director may designate the species allowable for each authorization, but no more than three shall be elk and no more than three shall be deer each year. Money collected pursuant to the special authorizations of the governor shall be deposited in the game protection fund and used only for fish and wildlife conservation.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Department of Game and Fish (DGF) estimates that revenues generated from the provision of these authorizations will be from \$25 thousand to \$50 thousand dollars annually. Further that these funds might then be leveraged against a variety of federal funding sources allowing for a more significant ability to benefit fish and wildlife conservation in New Mexico. Impacts to the Department's operating budget will be minimal and limited to staff time required to generate the appropriate authorization documents.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DGF suggests that activities that enhance or protect habitat are expensive and current state funding sources are not sufficient and although there are significant federal dollars available for such activities, most come with the requirement of matching state dollars. Accordingly, DGF believes that the establishment of a number of discretionary gubernatorial authorizations to be awarded for the express purpose of promoting the raising of funds for fish and wildlife conservation would improve the state's ability to take advantage of federal funding opportunities to maximize habitat improvement, conservation, and protection.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Duplicates HB212

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

DGF concludes that if this bill is not enacted the state will lose an opportunity to generate revenues that can be leveraged with various federal funding sources.

BW/mt:csd