

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS23273

The fees for licenses, tags, and permits issued by the department of fish and game are periodically adjusted to keep up with existing and new program costs necessary to manage fish and wildlife. The last resident license fee increase was in 2005. Non-resident fees were increased in 2009. This bill increases many resident license, tag, and permit fees. This bill also increases non-resident fees for first day and consecutive day fishing licenses and it creates new control hunt application fees for moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat hunts. Other miscellaneous resident and non-resident fees are also increased. Although a fee increase is the typical method to raise revenue to support increased costs, creating an incentive for every year season license purchase would raise revenue to counter fee increases because many people do not purchase a license every year. The fish and game commission is authorized to order discounted fees to encourage the purchase of a season license every year. Hunters, anglers, and trappers who purchase a season license every year or for multiple years would be exempted from fee increases in this bill via license fee discounts while a fish and game commission order is in effect. License fee increases in this bill would take effect for intermittent license buyers. This bill proposes an effective date of December 1, 2015 for purchase of a valid 2016 license. The delay in implementation of this fee increase provides license buyers more time to purchase a current season license and be eligible for a fish and game commission-ordered discount for their next license purchase before the fee increase takes effect.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no fiscal impact to the state General Fund. This bill includes an overall increase of about 20% for sport licenses, tags, and permits for residents with an estimated fiscal effect to the fish and game account of \$2.2 million increase in revenue. New revenue from the resident fee increases in this bill may be decreased by up to 50% if the fish and game commission authority to license discount for purchase of a season license every year incentivizes more hunters, anglers, and trappers to buy their season license every year. However, more individuals purchasing licenses every year at current prices still raises consistent revenue as an alternative to revenue from this fee increase. In addition to revenue from the fee increase for resident licenses, tags, and permits, there would also be an estimated increase in revenue to the fish and game account of \$416,905 from sales of nonresident daily fishing (1st-day) licenses and nonresident consecutive day fishing licenses. The fiscal impact to the fish and game account of creating a new trophy species control hunt application fee for residents and nonresidents is expected to raise \$125,501 in new revenue for the fish and game account. The total fiscal effect of this bill is estimated to range from \$1.64 million to \$2.74 million in new revenue to the fish and game account depending on how many hunters, anglers, and trappers are eligible for a fish and game commission ordered discount for every year season license purchase.

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