

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS25703

The Department of Fish and Game partners with many governmental and private entities to either fund, maintain, or improve sites, which the agency does not own, that are publicly accessible for recreational use without direct charge to individual recreationists. This legislation would provide protections from recreational liability to parties, such as the department, who fund, maintain, improve, or hold conservation easement on lands made available for public recreational use without direct charge to individuals for access, similar to the protections from recreational liability currently provided to any landowner who does not charge individuals for recreational access. Without these protections, Fish and Game will be exposed to recreational liability at potentially significant cost for supporting hunting, fishing, and trapping through actions such as funding access and providing infrastructure, such as docks, on lands the department does not own. This legislation also makes a technical correction to the license class reference for the three-year combination and fishing licenses for disabled persons.

FISCAL NOTE

The Department of Fish and Game is a dedicated fund agency that does not receive monies from the General Fund, so there is not a direct fiscal impact to the General Fund. A specific fiscal impact to the fish and game dedicated fund cannot be estimated because this legislation reduces the risk of recreational liability claims against the Department of Fish and Game in the future, and the department does not have a mechanism to predict the frequency and magnitude of future claims. If the Department of Fish and Game remains liable for future recreational claims, it could result in increases to the premiums paid to Risk Management, which would have a negative fiscal effect on the fish and game dedicated fund.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).