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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR McSorley DATE TYPED 03/04/05 HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Butterflies in Wildlife Conservation Act SB 850

ANALYST Ford

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
			Minimal – See Narrative		General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Game and Fish Department  
State Land Office

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 850 adds butterflies to the definition of “wildlife” for purposes of the Wildlife Conservation Act (WCA). This has the effect of allowing butterflies to be listed under the Act if their prospects for survival or recruitment in the state were in jeopardy.

#### Significant Issues

According to the Department of Game and Fish, butterflies and other insects receive no current protection under the WCA. The department has biologists on staff whose primary duties are to implement the WCA for each major taxonomic group but does not have the expertise on staff relative to butterflies. The department would likely require additional staff to effectively implement the proposed change.

**PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

The Department of Game and Fish has performance measures related to the number of species listed as threatened or endangered that are monitored, studied and involved in the recovery plan process. Adding butterflies to the Act could increase the number of species listed. The department indicates that without additional staff, the resources of existing staff would have to be diverted to become familiar with the biological and ecological matters specific to butterflies. This could detract from meeting performance measures related to other species.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The bill may result in cost increases to the Department of Fish and Game, which currently lacks the expertise to effectively monitor butterflies. The department indicates that it would most likely require one additional FTE and thus, the cost increase would likely be minimal (under \$100 thousand).

**EF/lg**