

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

ORIGINAL DATE 1-22-07

SPONSOR Nuñez LAST UPDATED 1-30-07 HB 56/aHENRC

SHORT TITLE Combined Hunting and Fishing Licenses SB _____

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08	FY09		
NFI	(\$10.0) est.	(\$24.0) est.	Recurring	Game Protection Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Game and Fish (DGF)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HENRC Amendment

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee amendment to HB56 amends the legislation to reflect the following language:

1. On page 10, between lines 13 and 14, insert the following new section to read:

"Section 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is April 1, 2008."

The amendment adds no appropriation language to the bill.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 56 amends sections of NMSA 1978 to provide for an adjustment to issuance of combined hunting and fishing licenses.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Department of Game and Fish (DGF) predicts that this bill will likely have a slight negative impact to revenue primarily caused by junior and senior hunters purchasing a discounted license instead of paying full price; however, the department does not expect the revenue impact to be significant. Moreover, the department has traditionally offered discounts for combination, junior and senior license privileges, and the change in allocation of deer hunting opportunity on public lands had the unintended consequence of causing customers to pay more than they had in the past, or to pay for the deer portion of a combination license they could not use. This bill provides an alternative that is not currently available.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DGF notes that this bill would amend sections of Chapter 17 NMSA 1978, to provide three additional license types and sets fees for those license types. The bill makes this change to address public concerns regarding the timing of the deer hunt drawings and the purchase of hunting licenses. The current general hunting and fishing license type allows the holder to fish, hunt small game and hunt deer. These annual licenses are available at the beginning of the license year (April 1st) and many customers purchase the combination license to take advantage of the discounted price. However, the draw process for deer hunts on public land does not take place until late June. The current choice of license types limits a public land deer hunter to buy the combination license and “gamble” that they will be successful in the draw, wait until the drawing to purchase their license or to purchase the privileges individually and not take advantage of the discount. The last option is the most expensive, especially for customers eligible for the junior or senior licenses, as they are the most deeply discounted. DGF indicates that this bill creates a new discounted license type that combines small game hunting and fishing, but does not include deer hunting. This combination will allow customers the benefit of a money saving combination license without having to miss the first 3 months of fishing season and will still allow junior and senior deer hunters the ability to purchase a discounted deer license subsequent to the hunt drawings.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DGF indicates that the bill will not create or reduce FTE, nor will it have any significant administrative implications. However, it recommends that the effective date of the bill should be delayed until April 1, 2008, as the licenses for the 2007-2008 license year have been ordered and are already being printed for distribution to license vendors statewide by the beginning of the license year, April 1, 2007. In addition, the rules and information booklets for the 2007-2008 license year have already been printed and distributed to the public.