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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/23/08

SPONSOR Griego LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Outfitter as Game Commission Member SB 293

ANALYST Woods

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY08	FY09	FY10	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total	0.0	3.0 ¹	3.0	6.0	Recurring	Game Protection Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Game and Fish (DGF)

No Response Received From

Association of Counties (AC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 293 seeks to create a new member of the State Game Commission, expanding the number of commissioners from seven to eight. The legislation further requires that one of the eight positions: “shall be a New Mexico resident outfitter or guide...” The expansion position will be appointed as a third “at large” position and not specifically tied to a specific geographic region.

There is no appropriation attached to this legislation.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

DGF anticipates that expanding the number of State Game Commissioners will increase the amount the agency expends for per diem and mileage reimbursements provided to Commissioners for participation in regularly scheduled meetings of the Commission and for travel to other functions related to their appointments.

¹ Cost projections are included in the agency response. See *Fiscal Implications* section for methodology.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DGF notes that the legislation would increase the total number of Commission members to eight, an even number, thus increasing the potential for deadlocked issues, given the opportunity for tie votes. The current composition of a seven-member Commission precludes this outcome, at least when all members are present and voting.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DGF indicates that, if this bill is enacted, the administrative workload associated with support of the State Game Commission would increase. The proportional increase would be associated with meeting and travel coordination and preparation of materials for eight members rather than seven.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

DGF concludes that, “...neither current statutes, nor the language contemplated in this bill, mandates that any commissioner specifically represent the interests of hunters and anglers. Providing a similar requirement could be considered appropriate given that there are around 100,000 hunters, 250,000 anglers and approximately 1,600 guides and outfitters in New Mexico.”

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The composition of the Commission will remain as it is currently defined in statute.

BFW/jp