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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Campos ORIGINAL DATE 02/12/19
 LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Hunting License Fee Changes SB 382

ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY19	FY20	FY21		
	\$6,000.0	\$6,900.0	Recurring	Game Protection Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Game and Fish (DGF)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 382 (SB 382) increases hunting, fishing and trapping license fees for residents and non-residents depending on license type. Specifically, the bill amends Chapter 17-3-13 NMSA 1978 for the license fees and establishes a new license class for non-resident bighorn sheep ewe of \$800. In addition, the bill extends the time for a temporary game hunting license from four to five days.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed increases to hunting and fishing license fees would increase the annual revenue for the department by an estimated \$6.9 million within the Game Protection Fund. DGF provided the revenue estimate based on the proposed license fee increase and projected annual sales.

Fee increases would also allow the department to maximize federal dollars. Through a partnership with the Federal Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Program, the department is able to match funds at a rate of \$3 federal to \$1 state, increasing the purchasing power of any revenue increase.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SB 382 establishes new hunting, fishing and trapping license fees consistent with those in the western states, the DGF reports. The department has not increased license fees since 2006.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

DGF noted an increase in revenue would facilitate improvements to programs beneficial to wildlife populations, natural landscapes, and the citizens of New Mexico. These opportunities include increases in management driven research, wildlife habitat and watershed restoration activities, public access programs, firearm safety and education, and infrastructure upgrades to hatcheries, shooting ranges, and other fish and wildlife associated facilities. Increased revenue would also enhance ongoing watershed management activities to improve wildlife habitat, restore riparian areas and wetlands, and proactively address catastrophic wildfire risk throughout the state. Additionally, an increase in revenue would allow the department to increase the number of conservation officers and improve services provided to the public in rural communities.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

DGF would continue to charge the current hunting, fishing and trapping license fees and would not be able to establish a new license class for non-resident bighorn sheep ewe.

AHO/gb