

Fiscal Estimate - 2013 Session

Original Updated Corrected Supplemental

LRB Number 13-0580/1		Introduction Number AB-0006	
Description A catch-and-release only season for bass fishing			
Fiscal Effect			
State:			
<input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate			
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations		<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues	
<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations		<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues	
<input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs			
Local:			
<input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs			
<input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate			
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs		3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue	
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory		<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs		4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue	
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory		<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	
5. Types of Local Government Units Affected			
<input type="checkbox"/> Towns		<input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities	
<input type="checkbox"/> Counties		<input type="checkbox"/> Others	
<input type="checkbox"/> School Districts		<input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts	
Fund Sources Affected		Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations	
<input type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS			
Agency/Prepared By DNR/ Joe Polasek (608) 266-2794		Authorized Signature Joe Polasek (608) 266-2794	
		Date 2/11/2013	

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DNR 2/11/2013

LRB Number	13-0580/1	Introduction Number	AB-0006	Estimate Type	Original
Description A catch-and-release only season for bass fishing					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill establishes a catch and release only season for bass fishing in the areas of the state where there is not a continuous open season for bass fishing. As written, this bill would offer approximately one month of additional catch and release fishing opportunity for smallmouth and largemouth bass.

Angling methods for bass are virtually indistinguishable from methods for walleye, northern pike, and muskellunge. Thus, conservation wardens would not be able to determine an angler's target species, creating the potential for a substantial increase in the number of anglers targeting all gamefish species during the previously closed season. As a result, it is expected that conservation wardens will have to respond to more complaints as members of the public report anglers targeting other gamefish, particularly because the season overlaps with spawning seasons of those other species.

Revenue Assumptions:

No substantial state fiscal impact is expected from this change in fishing regulations. It is unlikely that the bill will increase the number of fishing licenses sold. The regulation change may encourage new immediate release bass fishing tournaments on inland waters in the month of April. For example, if ten new tournaments apply for permits, tournament fee revenue will increase by \$250.

Cost Assumptions:

A catch and release season for bass may result in additional workload for conservation wardens and customer service representatives. Because it will only be legal to catch and release bass and no other game fish, the Department expects to field additional complaints from anglers regarding individuals that are targeting walleye, northern pike, and muskellunge while fishing in closed seasons for those species in March and April. Therefore, additional staffing costs are likely to be incurred in order for conservation wardens to investigate additional complaints. Cost estimates are indeterminate at this time.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications