

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DNR 4/7/2017

LRB Number	17-2516/1	Introduction Number	SB-150	Estimate Type	Original
Description requiring the Department of Natural Resources to establish a special wild turkey hunting program for certain disabled veterans, providing an exemption from emergency rule procedures, and requiring the exercise of rule-making authority					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill requires the Department to administer a turkey hunting program for disabled veterans, which includes establishing a special turkey hunting event during which only disabled veterans are allowed to participate and provides instruction to disabled veterans who are learning to hunt wild turkey. In addition, the bill provides license fee exemptions for disabled veterans who participate in the special turkey hunting event.

I. Bureau of Customer and Outreach Services

A. Costs

This bill exempts disabled veterans participating in this special event from the requirement to purchase and hold a valid a turkey hunting license, stamp and permit. The department's costs related to paying transaction fees to agents associated with the sale of the license, stamp and permit would decrease for each disabled veteran participant who would have otherwise purchased these items. If the disabled veteran opted to purchase a license, stamp and permit in one transaction, the cost to the department would be \$1.15 (\$0.50 transaction fee to agent + 0.65 transaction fee paid to licensing system vendor). If the disabled veteran opted to purchase all three items individually in three separate transactions, the cost to the department would be \$3.45 ($\$1.15 * 3$) in transaction costs.

The department cannot determine the number of participants in this special event nor can we determine those who would opt to purchase a turkey license, stamp and permit. As such, the total transaction costs saved are indeterminate.

B. Revenue

This bill exempts disabled veteran participants from the requirement to purchase and hold a valid a turkey hunting license, stamp and permit in order to participate in the special wild turkey hunting event. Disabled veterans would not be excluded from participating in such an event if they already hold a turkey license, stamp and permit. The department would lose revenue that may otherwise be earned for each disabled veteran hunter participating in the special event that chooses not to purchase a turkey license, stamp and permit.

1. Federal Revenue

The state will lose federal Pittman-Robertson (PR) funding for each zero dollar hunter if the participants chose not to purchase a hunting approval since they were exempt from turkey license requirements. Based on the last PR certification and apportionment, \$27.15 per hunter would be lost in PR funding for each hunter who, since they were exempt from the turkey hunting license requirement, did not purchase a hunting license at all during that license year.

2. State Revenue

State revenue lost would include the revenue lost for each hunter that would have otherwise purchased a turkey license, stamp, application and permit. The revenue that might have been collected includes turkey license, stamp, application, and permit fees, the \$2 wildlife damage surcharge fee and the appropriate issuing fee depending on product type and mode of sale.

Annual resident spring turkey hunting license: \$15 [$\12.25 turkey license fee + \$2 wildlife damage

surcharge +\$0.75 issuing fee (agent may retain \$0.50 of issuing fee)]

Turkey stamp: \$5.25 [\$5 stamp fee + \$0.25 issuing fee (agent may retain \$0.15 of issuing fee)]

Turkey permit leftover after drawing purchased over-the-counter (OTC): \$10 [\$9.75 permit fee + \$0.25 issuing fee paid (agent may retain \$0.15 of issuing fee)]

Turkey permit application: \$3 [\$2.75 turkey permit application fee + \$0.25 issuing fee (agent may retain \$0.15 of issuing fee)]

A hunter may obtain a turkey permit via applying for and being a winner in the turkey drawing or waiting until after the turkey drawing and purchasing a leftover permit over-the-counter (OTC). The revenue lost per hunter would be \$23.25 (\$15 license + \$5.25 stamp + \$3 application) per year for each hunter that would have otherwise purchased a turkey license, stamp, and applied for a spring turkey permit. Or \$30.25 (\$15 license + \$5.25 stamp + \$10 OTC permit) per hunter that would have otherwise purchased a turkey license, stamp, and purchased a leftover permit over the counter after the drawing. Assuming 50% of those would choose to purchase the otherwise required approval, stamp and permit by entering the permit drawing, the average loss of revenue per disabled veteran hunter would be \$26.75 per hunter $[(\$23.25 + \$30.25) / 2]$.

3. Total Revenue

In total, the department would lose an estimated \$53.90 (\$26.75 license, stamp, permit + \$27.15 PR) in annual revenue for each disabled veteran hunter who participated in this special event and who would have otherwise opted to purchase a turkey hunting license, stamp and permit in order to hunt turkeys in Wisconsin and who did not purchase any other hunting approval in that license year.

The department offers a Disabled Veterans Recreation Card to resident veterans with a 50% or greater service connected disability rating or that are individually unemployable. In 2015, 1,314 resident disabled veterans purchased this product which includes an annual small game hunting and annual fishing license. Assuming these same disabled veterans that purchased a Disabled Veteran Recreation Card in 2015 were interested in participating in the proposed LTH turkey program, there could be 1,314 unique disabled veterans participating. This bill does not limit the number of times a disabled veteran may participate in this LTH turkey program and so the revenue lost per hunter participating in the LTH program could occur on an annual basis. The department cannot estimate the number of participants in this special event, the number of times they choose to participate or their potential to purchase other hunting approvals and as such, the total revenues lost are indeterminate.

There is, however, a potential to gain hunters that would have otherwise not participated in hunting activities if it were not for participating in the proposed LTH turkey program, but the department cannot determine that number of hunters recruited and associated revenue gained from their continued participation in hunting turkeys or other game.

II. Bureau of Law Enforcement--Shooting Sports/Learn-to-Hunt Coordination

This proposal does not detail the responsibilities associated with "program administration" by DNR, nor can the Department estimate the number of participants. Therefore, the costs to administer this program are indeterminate. As an illustrative example of just the costs associated with a 1.5 day hunting event administered by DNR LTE mentors, assuming participation by 10 hunters and the rates enumerated below, the total cost would be \$4,000.

10 mentors @15 hours each = 150 hours @ \$20/hour = \$3,000
10 mentors drive 100 miles each at \$.50/mile = \$500
Expenses, equipment and food = \$500

Additional indeterminate costs would be associated with providing turkey hunting instruction, as well as hiring and screening the required mentors.

This proposal directs the Department to establish a new, limited wild turkey season and program procedures via administrative rule. The cost associated with rulemaking is indeterminate, as it is unknown if this rulemaking could be absorbed within another on-going proposal, or if the rulemaking would require its own independent process.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications