DRAFTER'S NOTE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

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As we discussed, the method by which this draft requires moneys to be transferred from the Lifetime Fishing Trust Fund back to the Conservation Fund generally follows how Ohio does this. However, this draft requires interest accrued from investment of the trust fund to be deposited back into the trust fund, whereas Ohio deposits interest into a separate fund.

Also, Ohio's trust fund consists not only of lifetime license fees but also of multi-year license fees. Ohio requires that, each fiscal year, "the total amount of the fee charged for the license divided by the number of years the license is valid" is transferred from the trust fund to the account where fees from single year licenses are deposited. Ohio's law says that "the prorated amount shall equal the total amount of the fee charged for the license divided by the number of years the license is valid." Clearly, this does not work well for lifetime licenses, so Ohio's law says that the DNR chief must "adopt rules establishing a system that prorates lifetime license fees" for purposes of this transfer.

Because this draft only covers lifetime licenses, not multi-year licenses, the language regarding "the number of years the license is valid" does not fit. Therefore, this draft only requires the fees to be prorated each fiscal year, and then requires DNR to promulgate rules to establish a system for prorating those fees. The draft also requires this system to comply with regulations under the federal Pittman-Robertson Act regarding how lifetime licenses are counted each year.

Let me know if you have any questions.

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