

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DATCP 10/18/2021

LRB Number	21-1893/1	Introduction Number	SB-563	Estimate Type	Original
Description farm-raised game bovids					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill makes changes so that farm-raised game bovids are treated in the same manner as farm-raised deer. The bill defines a farm-raised game bovids an animal that is not currently native to this state, is kept in captivity to be hunted, is a member of the family bovidae, and is a member of the subfamily aepycerotinae, alcelaphinae, antilopinae, boviniae, caprinae, or hippotraginae.

Licensing, Regulating, and Inspecting:

DATCP would incur indeterminate revenues and costs, depending upon the number of entities electing to register as farm-raised bovid hunting facilities.

DATCP costs may increase due to additional staff time needed to license, regulate, and inspect farm-raised game bovid entities. Staff time needed may include part of a veterinary program manager, program associate, animal health inspectors, field veterinarian, and compliance staff. DATCP may also need one limited term employee to set up a data management platform for traceability measures. Additional costs would also include supplies and travel costs. The amount of staff time and cost would depend on the number of entities seeking licensure. It would also depend on whether the entities are also currently licensed as farm-raised deer keepers, as farm-raised deer keepers are currently inspected by DATCP and so would require a smaller increase to staff time compared to new entities. If the number of entities seeking licensure is significant, DATCP would need additional staff as noted above to fulfill inspection requirements.

Disease:

Costs may also increase due to increased risk of disease introduction from the farm-raised bovid species imported into the state. Under s. ATCP 10.01 (39), the species identified in the bill language are defined as exotic ruminants. Currently, exotic ruminants may be imported under an import permit, which includes requirements for bovine tuberculosis (TB) and brucellosis testing, which would continue under this bill as well. This bill could result in an increase in the number of exotic ruminants imported. There are not established national disease surveillance programs for exotic ruminants as there are with other species, so an increase of exotic ruminant imports could potentially increase disease risk to domestic livestock in the State. The main disease risks of concern include bovine TB, brucellosis, and scrapie. There may also be increased disease risks in the event of escapes.

Bovine TB and brucellosis: Exotic ruminant species can transmit bovine TB and/or brucellosis to other ruminants, wildlife, and humans. There is no established surveillance protocol for TB or brucellosis in exotic ruminants, as exotic ruminants do not commonly enter state or federally inspected meat processing plants, and do not receive the benefit of slaughter inspection. The accuracy TB tests in exotic ruminants has not been well established, making individual animal testing less reliable than in domestic ruminants.

Scrapie: The sheep and goat species would be susceptible to scrapie, which is a prion disease with no zoonotic component. There is limited surveillance and testing and no status programs available for exotic ruminant species.

Escapes: DATCP does not have authority to control or dispatch escaped bovid animals. Potential escaped animals on the landscape pose some disease risk to domestic livestock and wildlife.

Increased risk of disease introduction could create costs to DATCP for disease response activities in both farm-raised bovids and other susceptible species. Common disease response activities include quarantining, testing, depopulation, indemnity payments, cleaning and disinfection, and inspection. Disease response costs include staff time, supplies and services, and indemnity payments. Disease response costs vary greatly by each disease event and the number of animals involved.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Once established, the program would be maintained in a manner similar to the farm-raised deer program. Rules, including fees, would be reevaluated in future as needed.