

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DNR 9/27/2021

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

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The bill makes changes so that farm-raised game bovids are treated in the same manner as farm-raised deer. It defines "farm-raised game bovid" as animals kept in captivity to be hunted, which includes animals more commonly known as bison, buffalo, sheep, goats, and antelopes.

State Fiscal Effect

Under current law, the Department of Natural Resources is the primary enforcement agency for fencing certification and compliance for farm-raised deer. The proposed law treats farm-raised game bovids in the same manner as farm-raised deer. However, the Department would not be the primary enforcement agency for fencing certification and compliance for farm-raised game bovids. As a result, there would be a minimal, if any, fiscal impact associated with fencing compliance and/or maintenance of farm-raised game bovids.

The Department is responsible for disposing of farm-raised deer that escape from licensed farms. For farm-raised deer escape incidents, the Department incurs costs based on staff time to locate and dispose of the escaped deer in order to prevent possible transmittal of CWD. As part of those incidents, department staff also inspect the fence for compliance with existing standards. The proposed law would not require the Department to conduct inspections of fences for escaped farm-raised game bovids. In the case of an escape, the Department's primary focus would be to locate and dispose of the escaped bovid.

The Department could incur indeterminate costs related to the escape of farm-raised game bovids from fencing confinements based on current costs (staff time to locate the escaped animal) associated with disposing of escaped farm-raised deer. There are currently 301 fenced areas within Wisconsin for farm-raised deer. In 2020, of those 301 fenced areas, the Department responded to 35 incidents of farm-raised deer outside of their fencing confinements (approximately one incident per nine fenced areas). It is unknown how many fenced areas there would be for farm-raised game bovid. Since the Department will not be responsible for fence compliance, it is unknown if there will be the same or a greater percentage of escapes from bovid farms. Due to this, the Department anticipates that there may be associated enforcement costs, but the overall fiscal effects are indeterminate.

Staff costs in responding to incidents of escaped farm-raised game bovid could vary greatly in terms of overall time spent on the incident. A primary factor that could increase the amount of staff time would include an indication that the escaped bovid was carrying a transmittable disease. Without additional funding or position allocation, the monetary and staff time costs associated with training and enforcement under this proposal will likely require re-prioritization from current enforcement activities, at an indeterminate level.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications