



## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #534

### **Fish and Wildlife Dedicated Account Revenues (DNR -- Fish, Wildlife, and Recreation)**

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#### **CURRENT LAW**

Some revenue sources to the fish and wildlife account are statutorily designated for specific purposes, rather than for general fish and game activities. The main categories of dedicated revenue are: (a) hunting and fishing stamps; and (b) wildlife damage surcharge revenues (which are discussed in a separate paper).

#### **GOVERNOR**

No provision.

#### **DISCUSSION POINTS**

1. In order to hunt or fish certain species, a person must purchase a stamp in addition to a license. Currently, five stamps are required: waterfowl, wild turkey, pheasant, inland waters trout, and Great Lakes trout and salmon. Revenue from the sale of these stamps is statutorily specified to be used exclusively for habitat and propagation projects for the benefit of the respective species.

2. As shown in the table, a number of these assigned, segregated revenue appropriations are expected to have uncommitted balances as of June 30, 2003.

## Stamp Appropriation Balances

<u>Dedicated Revenue Appropriation</u>	<u>Expected Balance on June 30, 2003</u>	<u>Alt. #2 75% Lapse</u>	<u>Alt. #3 50% Lapse</u>
Wild Turkey Stamp	\$564,100	\$423,100	\$282,100
State Waterfowl Stamp	800,800	600,600	400,400
Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp	351,200	263,400	175,600
Inland Trout Stamp	<u>276,900</u>	<u>207,700</u>	<u>138,500</u>
Total	\$1,993,000	\$1,494,800	\$996,600

3. Revenues from the sales of these stamps are statutorily designated for habitat and propagation projects for the benefit of the respective species. However, given that turkey, waterfowl, and trout projects experience some benefit from fish and wildlife account expenditures in addition to those funded by stamp revenues, and given the magnitude of the fishing and hunting fee increases and expenditure reductions proposed under the bill to offset the fish and wildlife account's potential deficit, it may be desirable to lapse, on a one-time basis, all or a portion of the available balances from these continuing appropriations to the balance of the fish and wildlife account. As revenues are expected to exceed expenditures in both 2003-04 and 2004-05, such an action could be taken without threatening the overall financial health of the continuing appropriations. Lapsed revenues would increase the available balance of the general fish and wildlife account on a one-time basis.

### ALTERNATIVES

1. Transfer \$1,993,000 (\$564,100 from turkey stamp revenues, \$800,800 from state waterfowl stamp revenues, \$351,200 from Great Lakes trout and salmon stamp revenues, and \$276,900 from inland trout stamp revenues) on the effective date of the bill from the continuing balance of assigned segregated account revenues to the balance of the general fish and wildlife account. (This would represent the July 1, 2003, available balance expected in these appropriations.)

2. Transfer \$1,494,800 (\$423,100 from turkey stamp revenues, \$600,600 from state waterfowl stamp revenues, \$263,400 from Great Lakes trout and salmon stamp revenues, and \$207,700 from inland trout stamp revenues) on the effective date of the bill from the continuing balance of assigned segregated account revenues to the balance of the general fish and wildlife account. (This would represent approximately 75% of the available balance in these appropriations.)

3. Transfer \$996,600 (\$282,100 from turkey stamp revenues, \$400,400 from state waterfowl stamp revenues, \$175,600 from Great Lakes trout and salmon stamp revenues, and \$138,500 from inland trout stamp revenues) on the effective date of the bill from the continuing balance of assigned segregated account revenues to the balance of the general fish and wildlife account. (This would represent approximately 50% of the available balance in these appropriations.)

4. Take no action.

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