



---

**SF 203** – Fishing Licenses, Ponds (LSB1106SV)  
Analyst: Debra Kozel (515.281.6767) [deb.kozel@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:deb.kozel@legis.iowa.gov)  
Fiscal Note Version – New

---

**Description**

[Senate File 203](#) eliminates the need for a person to purchase a fishing license when the owner of a pond on private land gives the person permission to fish.

**Background**

Currently, Iowa Code section [483A.24](#) allows landowners and their minor-aged children to fish on the land they own without purchasing a fishing license. In addition, all residents under 16 years of age may fish for free in Iowa, including private ponds. Other persons wanting to fish at a pond on private property must purchase a fishing license.

**Assumptions**

Fishing license fees are deposited into the Fish and Game Protection Fund to pay for programs related to hunting, fishing, law enforcement, and other wildlife programs within the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). When there is a reduction in the number of licenses sold, license revenue is decreased, which can affect the services the Department provides.

[Responsive Management](#) conducted the 2018 Iowa Angler Survey during the last two months of 2018. The final report will be available in April 2019. A total of 1,628 licensed anglers were surveyed and the following information is related to the Bill:

- 14.7% of licensed anglers surveyed said they fish exclusively on private ponds.
- The DNR assumes the 14.7% of the licensed anglers would cease to purchase a fishing license.
- Fishing license sales data from 2018 was used to project fishing license sales and fee revenue for FY 2019.
- The DNR increased fishing license fees by 17.0% for calendar year 2019 through the Administrative Rules process.
- Federal Sport Fish Restoration funds are apportioned to states based on a formula that includes licenses sold. If fishing license sales decrease, the amount of federal funds could be reduced beginning in 2024, due to the timing of the federal certification and apportionment process.

**Fiscal Impact**

The estimated fiscal impact of [SF 203](#) is a revenue reduction of \$796,000 to the Fish and Game Trust Fund for FY 2020 and each subsequent year. Also, in FY 2024, there may be a potential loss of \$616,000 in federal funds deposited in the Fish and Game Trust Fund.

**Table 1** details the estimated reduction of revenue to the Fish and Game Trust Fund from the implementation of [SF 203](#).

**Table 1 — SF 203 Estimated Revenue Reduction**

Estimated FY 2019				Estimated FY 2020			Increase/ (Decrease) (2-1)
License Type	# Sold	License Fee	Total Revenue (1)	# Sold	License Fee	Total Revenue (2)	
Resident Fishing	201,765	\$20.00	\$ 4,035,300	172,106	\$ 20.00	\$ 3,442,111	\$ -593,189
Resident 1 - Day Fishing	2,353	\$ 8.50	\$ 20,001	2,007	\$ 8.50	\$ 17,060	\$ -2,940
Resident 7 - Day Fishing	983	\$13.50	\$ 13,271	838	\$ 13.50	\$ 11,320	\$ -1,951
Resident 3 - Year Fishing	7,487	\$60.00	\$ 449,220	6,386	\$ 60.00	\$ 383,185	\$ -66,035
Resident Fishing/Hunting Combo	44,781	\$20.00	\$ 895,620	38,198	\$ 20.00	\$ 763,964	\$ -131,656
Projected Loss of Increased License Revenue							\$ -795,771

**Sources**

Department of Natural Resources  
LSA calculations

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

March 4, 2019

---

The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

---