SF 581 – Fishing and Hunting Licenses and Permits (LSB2542SZ.2)
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Fiscal Note Version – As amended by House amendment S-5121

Description

Senate File 581 as amended by House amendment S-5121 makes several changes regarding antlerless deer population management.

Under current law, a person convicted of unlawfully selling, taking, catching, killing, injuring, destroying, or having in possession an antlerless deer shall reimburse the State $1,500.

The Bill as amended reduces the reimbursement value of antlerless deer from $1,500 to $750, a reduction of $750 per antlerless deer.

The Bill as amended sets depredation license and permit fees at $5 (currently $15) and directs the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to allow licenses and permits issued under the Bill to be used during September, October, November, and December, at minimum.

The Bill as amended directs unsold antlerless deer licenses in each county to be made available during a January antlerless deer only hunting season.

The Bill as amended requires the DNR to conduct a triennial deer population study by county. The study is to provide information on population impacts such as crops and trees, disease spread, and deer-vehicle collision impacts such as property loss, medical costs, and fatalities.

The funding for the study is to come from the Fish and Wildlife Protection Fund, and the first study is to be completed and a report submitted to the General Assembly by October 1, 2024.

The Bill as amended also requires that of the 6,000 annual nonresident antlered or any sex deer hunting licenses issued by the Natural Resource Commission (NRC), 50 must be reserved for nonresidents who have made a reservation with a nonprofit organization that hosts guided hunting services for veterans. A nonresident may only receive one hunting license through this method, and any of the 50 licenses allotted for veterans that remain unissued by a deadline established by the NRC are to be made available in the same way as other excess nonresident licenses. A nonresident who applies for this license must show proof of a reservation with an eligible hunting guide service, and not more than 35.0% of these licenses may be issued for bow season.

The Bill as amended also amends Iowa Code section 483A.24 by allowing a person who qualifies for the disabled veteran homestead credit under Iowa Code section 425.15 to be eligible to purchase a lifetime trout fishing license.

Assumptions

- The number of illegal harvest penalties will remain similar to FY 2020 at 11.
- The number of depredation licenses sold will remain similar to FY 2021 at 3,794.
• There will be an annual loss of revenue, as qualified veterans may purchase lifetime trout licenses instead of annual licenses.
• There will be an increase of 1,272 antlerless deer licenses sold during the January antlerless seasons.

**Fiscal Impact**

**First Year**

- A reduction of $750 in revenue per illegal harvest (11) is expected, for a total of approximately $8,000.
- A reduction of $10 in revenue per depredation license (3,794) is expected, for a total of approximately $38,000.
- A reduction in annual sales of $12.50 trout licenses (114) as a result of qualified veterans purchasing lifetime licenses instead is expected, for a total of approximately $1,400.
- An increase in revenue from an increase in the number of $15 antlerless deer licenses sold (1,272) due to changes in the January antlerless season is expected, for a total of approximately $19,000 in revenue.

**Recurring**

It will cost an estimated $150,000 to conduct a study every three years, assuming a contract with Iowa State University Cooperative Extension Service.

The change will cause a permanent reduction of approximately $29,000 to the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund annually. The study will create a recurring cost of $150,000 every three years to the Fish and Wildlife Protection Fund. The table below shows the three-year cycle of the fiscal impact of SF 581.

### Estimated Fiscal Impact of SF 581 as Amended to the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fnd

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>FY 2023</th>
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<th>FY 2026</th>
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<td>Annual Gain in Revenue</td>
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<td>Expense of Study</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Source**

Department of Natural Resources

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

April 11, 2022

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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.