

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO.

Senate Bill 274

PRINTER'S NO.

250

AMOUNT

\$500 Revenue annually

FUND

Game

DATE INTRODUCED

January 26, 2011

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Alloway

HISTORY OF BILLReferred to GAME AND FISHERIES, Jan. 26, 2011Reported as committed, Feb. 14, 2011

First consideration, Feb. 14, 2011

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, March 7, 2011Re-reported as committed, April 11, 2011**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

Senate Bill 274 amends Title 34 (Game) and allows the Game Commission to promulgate regulations pertaining to their mentored youth hunting program. The regulations will exempt youth hunters from certain license requirements when participating in a mentored youth hunting program. This will allow a licensed hunter with an antlerless deer permit to transfer the permit to a youth hunter. An exemption shall include a provision that limits a participating youth hunter from receiving more than one antlerless deer license in each license year.

The bill contains provisions related to falconry permits and permit fees. The provisions bring the state law into compliance with Federal regulations. The bill reduces the age from 16 to 12 years of age for a Commonwealth resident to be issued a falconry permit. The bill changes the criteria by which permit fees are set. The current annual fee is \$25 per each raptor held. The bill sets an annual permit fee of \$50, regardless of the number of raptors held.

The Commission may adopt regulations to define, implement, and provide for the issuance of falconry permits to eligible persons within the Commonwealth. The bill states that it is unlawful for any person to engage in any falconry activities without a valid falconry permit or to violate any regulation of the Game Commission relating to falconry.

The bill's provisions are effective immediately.

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FISCAL IMPACT:

The Game Commission anticipates increased revenue of about \$500 to the Game Fund from the enactment of the falconry provision. If a person is issued a falconry permit for more than two raptors, the fees collected by the Game Commission will now be limited to \$50 total, rather than \$25 per raptor. However, if a permittee only maintains a permit for one raptor, the fee change will result in a \$25 annual increase for that permittee.