

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 1090

PRINTER'S NO. 1423

AMOUNT

\$356,184 Annual Revenue Loss

FUND

Game

DATE INTRODUCED

September 16, 2013

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Baker

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to GAME AND FISHERIES, Sept. 16, 2013

Reported as amended, Oct. 1, 2013

First consideration, Oct. 1, 2013

Second consideration, Oct. 2, 2013

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, Oct. 2, 2013

Re-reported as committed, Oct. 15, 2013

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 1090 amends Title 34 (Game) to provide reduced hunting license fees to certain disabled veterans. Specifically, it amends Section 2706 (b) to provide that any veteran who is eligible for disability compensation as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and who meets all other qualifications of this act and is otherwise mentally and physically fit, is to be issued a resident hunting license at the cost of \$1.

Under the provisions of current law, resident disabled veterans whose physical disability is considered 100% or whose physical disability consists of the loss of one or more limbs or the use of one or more limbs, shall continue to receive a free license.

The act will take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Under current law, any resident disabled veteran whose physical disability is not 100% or has not suffered the loss or use of one of more limbs, must pay the full hunting license fee of \$19. Under SB 1090's provisions, this group of veterans will now pay \$1. Therefore, there will be an \$18 revenue loss for each purchased license by a newly-qualified disabled veteran under the SB 1090 provisions.

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According to the Game Commission's year-end sales report, there was a total of 2,312 resident 100% disabled veterans who were issued licenses between June 2012 and June 2013. The VA reports that there are currently 10,758 100% disabled veterans in Pennsylvania. Using these figures to estimate a percentage of those disabled veterans who might purchase the new reduced-cost hunting licenses under SB 1090's provisions, results in an estimate of 21.5% of this population. The VA reports that there are currently 92,037 disabled veterans who will meet SB 1090's new criteria for the \$1 license fee. Assuming 21.5% or 19,788 of these disabled vets avail themselves of the reduced license fee of \$1, the potential annual revenue loss experienced by the Game Commission is estimated to be \$356,184.