



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

# FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 644

PRINTERS NO. 1173

PRIME SPONSOR: Scarnati

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2012/13	FY 2013/14
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Game Fund	\$0	\$0

**SUMMARY:** Amends Title 34 (Game and Wildlife Code) to clarify that any variation or species of swine, such as feral swine or wild boar, that are held in captivity are not considered “wild animals” as defined in the Code; and also amends Title 3 (Agriculture) to require the department to regulate swine hunting preserves.

**ANALYSIS:** SB 644 will amend Section 102 (relating to Definitions) of Title 34 to clarify that the definition of “Wild animals” shall not include a species or variation of swine, pig or boar, held in captivity, therefore removing such animals from the regulatory purview of the PA Game Commission (PGC). PGC will maintain regulatory authority over wild boar or feral swine not held in captivity.

The bill also amends Title 3 to create a new Subchapter I (relating to Swine Hunting Preserves) that requires the Department of Agriculture, within two years, to promulgate regulations that are consistent with Section 14 (relating to requirements of swine hunting preserves) of the department’s General Quarantine Order on the Importation and Intrastate Movement of Swine (39 Pa Bulletin 5442 of Sept. 2009). The requirements that are to be placed in regulation include the following:

- Swine must have an official individual identification, such as ear tags or tattoos.
- Each swine must have veterinary inspection within 30 days of release verifying that the swine has not been fed raw garbage.
- Importation to a preserve of any swine that has been exposed to or stricken with a dangerous transmissible disease is prohibited without a special department permit.
- Swine not from a qualified or validated disease-free herd are prohibited entry into PA.
- Male swine entering a hunting preserve must be sterilized before release.
- Detailed records on movement of swine to and from preserves must be kept for 5 years.
- Perimeter fencing shall be sufficient to keep all swine in or other swine out of preserves.

The bill also places in statute that, immediately upon enactment of this bill, it is unlawful to release a male swine onto a hunting preserve if it has not been sterilized, in order to cover the

two-year period when regulations are being promulgated. Additionally, the bill states that PGC shall have no authority to promulgate regulations on swine hunting preserves and that no regulation promulgated by the Department of Agriculture shall be governed by Title 34 (Game and Wildlife Code).

Effective date: 60 days

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The bill does not place any additional duties upon the Game Commission. However, the Department of Agriculture would be required, within two years, to promulgate regulations relating to swine hunting preserves and the department's General Quarantine Order on the Importation and Intrastate Movement of Swine. There will be some administrative costs related to development of these regulations, but it is expected these will be covered under existing agency operations.

**PREPARED BY:** Thomas Gwinn  
House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** June 17, 2013

*Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*