



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 77

PRINTERS NO. 53

PRIME SPONSOR: Alloway

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2015/16	FY 2016/17
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Game Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: Amends Title 34 (Game Code) to address dog training areas.

ANALYSIS: SB 77 amends the following subsections of Section 2941 (relating to dog training areas) of Title 34:

- Subsection (a) (relating to establishment) - Reduces the required amount of acreage necessary to obtain a permit for a dog training area from the current 100 acres down to 50 acres.
- Subsection (c) (relating to hunting and furtaking restrictions) - Allows for the hunting or trapping of furbearers or protected game animals by the permittee or any other person authorized in writing by the permittee during seasons established by the PA Game Commission. [Current law prohibits such hunting or trapping on a dog training area unless it is for population control only under permit of the Commission.]
- Subsection (d) (relating to big game hunting) - Provides that a person may not hunt for big game animals on a dog training area without permission from the permittee, unless the area is conspicuously posted as open to big game hunting. [Current law allows for big game hunting on such areas, but does not require permission of the permittee.]
- Subsection (e) (relating to marking boundary) - Allows the training area to be posted prior to October 1 of each year to warn a trespasser of the purpose of the area or by legible no trespassing signs endorsed by the permittee at a roadway, vehicle entrance or pedestrian pathway entering or bordering a training area. [Current law requires posting along the entire boundary line of the training area by the same date.]
- Subsection (f) (relating to unlawful acts) - Provides that it is unlawful to trap for any game of wildlife on a dog training area without written permission from the permittee. [Current law provides that this activity is unlawful without a permit.]
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- Additionally, new language is added to Subsection (f) to provide that it is unlawful to:
 - destroy, vandalize or remove any equipment, vegetation, buildings or other facilities within a dog training area;
 - kill, maim, injure or interfere with a dog engaged in training or field trials within a permitted dog training area, or interfere with a person training dogs or participating in field trial events or lawfully hunting or trapping within a dog training area; or
 - enter onto a posted dog training area without written permission of the permittee for any purpose.

Effective date: 60 days

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds.

PREPARED BY: Thomas Gwinn
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: October 27, 2015

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