

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 1272

PRINTER'S NO. 2220

AMOUNT

Minimal Fiscal Impact

FUND

Game

DATE INTRODUCED

March 15, 2010

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Alloway

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to GAME AND FISHERIES, March 15, 2010

Reported as committed, June 15, 2010

First consideration, June 15, 2010

Laid on the table, July 3, 2010

Removed from table, Sept. 20, 2010

Second consideration, Sept. 22, 2010

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, Sept. 22, 2010

Re-reported as amended, Sept. 27, 2010

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 1272 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 antlered deer permit to give it 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, as amended, provides for sections 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.

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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.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of the Falconry provision in this legislation will have minimal impact to the Game Fund. Revenue for falconry permits may decrease slightly as a result of the fee 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.