

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. House Bill 2169

PRINTER'S NO. 3718

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

Game Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

April 9, 2014

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Gabler

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 2169 amends Section 2706.2 of Title 34 (Game), related to elk hunting licenses.

Subsection (a) of Section 2706.2 requires the Game Commission to hold a random drawing of applications for the issuance of elk licenses under this subsection at the Elk Country Visitor Center in the township of Benezette in Elk County.

Subsection (b) is renamed, Special conservation license, and allows the contracted wildlife conservation organization to retain administrative costs determined and agreed-upon with the contracted organization who receives the license prior to license being awarded. The provisions require the contracted organization to return all remaining auction proceeds after retention of the agreed-upon administrative costs. The Game Commission is required to use these auction proceeds in a manner consistent with their elk management plan. The Game Commission is also required to include the use of these auction proceeds in their annual report to the General Assembly. Finally, the expiration date of July 1, 2013 for this subsection is deleted.

A new subsection (c) is established to provide for a special-license fundraiser. The Game Commission may contract to auction or raffle one elk license annually, with a Pennsylvania-based nonprofit organization whose primary mission is the advancement of education, stewardship and habitat for the elk population in the Commonwealth, and who is a participant in a public-private partnership for the management and operation of the Elk Country Visitor's Center in Benezette Township in Elk County. The bill further provides in this subsection that the contracted entity may conduct a fundraiser for the opportunity for interested hunters to purchase the elk license. The fundraiser must be open to all residents and non-residents of the Commonwealth who wish to obtain the license. Subsequent use of the license must meet Federal and state hunting regulations.

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Subsection (c) also allows the contracted entity to retain administrative costs associated with the auction, which are determined and agreed-upon by the entity receiving the license prior to the license being awarded. The provisions require the contracted entity to return all remaining auction proceeds to the Game Commission to be used in a manner consistent with their elk management plan. The Game Commission is also required to include the use of proceeds from this special-license fundraiser in their annual report to the General Assembly. Finally, the expiration date of July 1, 2018 is specified for this subsection.

Subsection (d) requires the recipient selected to receive the license under subsection (b) and subsection (c) must but subjected to a background check prior to be awarded the license. If one or more serious game law violations are found as a result of the background check, the license will not be awarded to that individual and another recipient will be chosen.

The act shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Game Commission has confirmed that no fiscal impact is anticipated to result from the passage of this bill.