

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 644

PRINTER'S NO. 618

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

Game Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

March 8, 2013

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Scarnati

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to GAME AND FISHERIES, March 8, 2013

Reported as committed, March 12, 2013

First consideration, March 12, 2013

Second consideration, March 13, 2013

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, March 13, 2013

Re-reported as committed, March 18, 2013

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

The bill amends the definition of "wild animals" in the Game Code to specifically exclude a species or variation of swine, pig or boar, held in captivity. Thus, with the passage of this legislation, the Game Commission will cease to have any authority over swine, pigs or boar held in captivity.

It appears that captive swine, pigs and boar were under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture prior to 2007. In 2007 however, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that captive swine, pigs and boar were under the jurisdiction of the Game Commission. Specifically removing captive swine, pigs and boars from the definition of "wild animals" in the Game Code would result in these animals being considered "domestic animals" under the Domestic Animals Act which falls within the Department of Agriculture's purview.

The Act takes effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact will result from the passage of this legislation. The Department of Agriculture will not incur additional costs due to the legislation's passage. The legislation does not require the Department to regulate wild boar hunting preserves.