

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 1166

PRINTER NO. 1882

AMOUNT

Potential Revenue Increase

FUND

Game Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

March 18, 2016

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Stefano

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 1166 amends Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to authorize the Pennsylvania Game Commission (Commission) to establish the fees for hunting and fur-taking licenses.

This legislation requires the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (Committee) to prepare a financial analysis of fees, fines, penalties, royalties, Federal and State appropriations and other sources of revenue received by the Commission and of expenditures, including annual operating costs, investments, land purchases, and capital projects prior to the establishment of any fee increases.

Following submission of the Committee's analysis, the Commission is required to do the following:

- Publish a notice of proposed rule-making containing the proposed fee changes;
- Give at least thirty days for the submission of written comments and shall hold at least one public hearing;
- After adoption of a final-form regulation, the Commission is required to submit transcripts of the public hearing to the Game and Fisheries Committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives;
- Either legislative committee may report a concurrent resolution recommending disapproval of the fee change within thirty days of receiving the regulation report;
- If either legislative committee reports a concurrent resolution within thirty days and the General Assembly does not adopt it within thirty days of the date on which it is reported, the fee change shall be deemed approved;
- If the General Assembly adopts a concurrent resolution with thirty days of the date of the date on which it is reported, the following shall apply:
 - The concurrent resolution shall be presented to the Governor in accordance with Section 9 of Article III of the Pennsylvania Constitution;
 - If the Governor does not veto the concurrent resolution of the General Assembly within ten days after it is presented, the fee change shall be deemed disapproved;

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- If the Governor vetoes the concurrent resolution within ten days after it is presented, the General Assembly may, within thirty days of the veto, override the veto by a two-thirds vote in each house.
- If the fee change is deemed approved, the Commission shall:
 - Submit the final-form regulation containing the fee change to the Office of Attorney General for legal approval; and
 - Publish an order adopting the final-form regulation containing the fee change and deposit the text of the order with the Legislative Reference Bureau

This authorization shall expire July 15, 2019.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This legislation authorizes the Commission to establish the fees they charge for hunting and fur-taking licenses. These fees are currently set by legislation. The Commission is not supported by General Fund revenues and relies on fees paid by license holders.

Enactment of this legislation may result in increased revenue to the Game Fund if the Commission determines a fee increase is necessary to maintain support of the Commission.