

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 359

PRINTER NO. 2922

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

Game Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

February 7, 2017

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative English

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 359 amends Title 34 (Game) to allow for the continued use of recording devices in the course of duty and to allow for the payment of restitution for the killing of bear and elk by accident or mistake.

The legislation allows for the continued use of recording devices by Wildlife Conservation Officers by changing the reference to Title 18 due to recent amendments to Title 18.

Hunting and trapping privileges would not be suspended if a defendant is enrolled in a payment plan for the repayment of penalties and is making regular payments.

A \$100 restitution payment is established for accidentally or mistakenly killing a bear or elk.

Criteria is established for which hunting or fur taking privileges will not be revoked to include meeting all of the following conditions:

- The violation is the person's first offense;
- The person complies with the procedural reporting requirements;
- The violation takes place during an open season within the applicable wildlife management unit for the species involved or a closed season but only if there was an open season within an adjacent wildlife management unit for the same species;
- The person pleads guilty to the charge;
- The violation does not involve a threatened or endangered species; and
- There are no relevant aggravating circumstances present concerning the violation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Commission expects a de minimis revenue increase due to the imposition of a \$100 restitution payment for accidentally or mistakenly killing a bear or elk, as a result of currently experiencing less than 10 of these types of kills recorded each year.