

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** Senate Bill 192

**PRINTER NO.** 224

**AMOUNT**

\$15 Million Annual Revenue Increase

\$20,000 LBFC Expense

**FUND**

Game Fund

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

January 26, 2017

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Stefano

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

Senate Bill 192 amends Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to authorize the Pennsylvania Game Commission ("Commission") to establish the fees for hunting and furtaking licenses by regulatory action and to require the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to prepare a financial analysis of the Commission's revenue and expenditures prior to the establishment of fees.

The legislation amends section 328 of the Game Code by adding a new subsection requiring the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee ("LBFC"), prior to authorizing the Commission to establish fees for hunting and furtaking licenses, to prepare a financial analysis of all sources of revenue received by the Commission and all expenditures.

Requires the Commission to provide records, financial statements and other documents reflecting the revenue and expenditures subject to the analysis, and to respond to inquiries and requests for information from LBFC in a timely manner.

As part of its financial analysis report, LBFC is required to include its most recent performance audit of the Commission. The report is required to be completed within 90 days of the effective date of this subsection and shall be submitted to the Senate President Pro Tempore and the House Speaker. The report shall be public information.

Amends section 322 (relating to the Commission's powers and duties) by authorizing the Commission, after submission of the LBFC report, to establish fees for hunting and furtaking licenses and by outlining the rulemaking process. This provision will expire July 15, 2020. Any final-form regulations promulgated by the Commission prior to the expiration date will remain in effect.

Amends section 2709 (relating to license costs and fees) to create the following new licenses and provides that the fees for these licenses shall be established by the Commission: senior nonresident hunting; senior nonresident furtaking; senior nonresident hunting and furtaking; and ultimate outdoorsman combination license, including bear, archery, muzzleloader, furtaker, migratory game bird and special wild turkey for both resident and nonresident hunters.

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## FISCAL NOTE

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Legislative Budget and Finance Committee estimates that it would incur expenses of approximately \$20,000 to perform the required financial analysis prior to each increment of fee increases proposed by the Game Commission.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission advises that it may possibly consider increasing fees in a manner similar to SB 1148 of the last legislative session. Additional annual revenue from such a fee increase is estimated at approximately \$15 million. Decisions as to exact increases and the timing of fee increase proposals would be made by the Commission as part of its strategic plan.

The following fee increase schedule was contained in SB 1148:

Adult resident hunting \$19 to \$29  
Bear hunting resident \$15 to \$20  
Bear hunting nonresident \$35 to \$40  
Antlerless deer resident \$5 to \$10  
Antlerless deer nonresident \$25 to \$40  
Archery deer resident \$15 to \$20  
Archery deer nonresident \$25 to \$40  
Muzzleloader deer resident \$10 to \$20  
Muzzleloader deer nonresident \$20 to \$40  
Adult nonresident hunting \$100 to \$150  
Seven-day nonresident small game \$30 to \$50  
Adult resident furtaker \$19 to \$29  
Adult nonresident furtaker \$80 to \$100  
Migratory game bird resident \$2 to \$5  
Migratory game bird nonresident \$5 to \$10  
Special wild turkey resident \$20 to \$25  
Special wild turkey nonresident \$40 to \$50

Senior nonresident hunting \$100  
Senior nonresident furtaker \$80  
Senior nonresident combo hunting and furtaker \$150  
Ultimate outdoor combo (bear, archery, muzzleloader, furtaker, migratory game bird, special wild turkey) resident \$110, nonresident \$350