

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 337

PRINTER NO. 683

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

Game Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

March 3, 2021

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Boscola

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 337 amends Title 34 (Game) to provide for increases to fines and penalties for killing or unlawfully taking a bald or golden eagle.

Senate Bill 337 creates a summary offense and fine of not less than \$2,000 for the killing of a bald eagle or golden eagle. The bill also establishes a special grading of a misdemeanor of the second degree for the unlawful taking and possessing of protected birds under the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act in addition to any other penalties.

Senate Bill 337 also includes a special grading, in addition to any other penalty, where the offense shall be graded one degree higher for a violation which results in the killing of a bald eagle or golden eagle. The provisions of the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act would continue to apply.

The act will take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 337 increases the fine from \$200 to \$2,000 for each instance of the killing of an eagle. Fines are designated back to the Game Fund and will be used for future habitat that impacts those species. Over the past 4 years only 2 individuals have been prosecuted for this offense. Therefore, it is estimated that less than one \$2,000 fine per year, on average, will be paid to the Game Fund.