

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-1523

AN ACT CONCERNING THE TAKING OF WILDLIFE THAT
DAMAGE CROPS OR BLACK BEAR THAT INJURE OR KILL
LIVESTOCK.

As Amended by Senate "A" (LCO 8608), House "A" (LCO 9492)
House Calendar No.: 620
Senate Calendar No.: 381

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Cost	32,500	32,500
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	13,231	13,231
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal
Judicial Dept. (Probation)	GF - Potential Savings	Minimal	Minimal
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Loss	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Section 1 expands and revises the use of deadly physical force to kill a bear. The bill results in a cost to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) associated with monitoring crop damage, issuing additional permits, and disposing of wildlife. DEEP would require a part-time Environmental Conservation Officer, with a salary of \$32,500 and corresponding fringe benefits of \$13,231 (for a total

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 40.71% of payroll in FY 26.

of \$45,721) annually, beginning in FY 26. Also, there is a minimal revenue increase to the resources of the General Fund associated with issuing additional permits. It is anticipated the revenue increase would be minimal.

Section 2 expands the circumstances in which a person may exert lethal force over wildlife resulting in a potential savings to the Judicial Department for probation and a potential revenue loss to the General Fund from fines.² On average, the marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than \$600 each year for adults and \$450 each year for juveniles.

Section 3 requires DEEP to conduct an assessment on the state's black bear population. Given the results of the report the Governor may direct DEEP to adopt regulations related to a state bear hunt, this is not anticipated to result in a cost as DEEP has the staff and expertise necessary to adopt regulations.

Senate "A" strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact and replaces it with the fiscal impact described above.

House "A" replaces Section 3 and requires DEEP to submit a black bear management plan.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, number of permits, and actual violations.

The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.