

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-5523

AN ACT CONCERNING A TRIBAL WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES ADVISORY COUNCIL.

As Amended by House "A" (LCO 5295)

House Calendar No.: 319

Senate Calendar No.: 526

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Revenue Loss	See Below	See Below
Office of Policy and Management	MP&MF - See Below	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund; MP&MF=Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill makes various changes related to tribal wildlife and fishery programs resulting in the fiscal impact described below.

Section 1 establishes the Connecticut Tribal Wildlife and Fisheries Advisory Council, within the legislative branch. This does not result in a cost as the advisory council has the expertise necessary to meet the requirements of the bill.

Section 2 requires the DEEP commissioner to give free hunting and fishing permits to any enrolled member of a federally or state-recognized tribe. This results in a revenue loss to the resources of the General Fund. The scope of the revenue loss is indeterminate as it is unknown how many free permits will be issued and correspondingly how many fewer hunting and fishing (paid) permits will be purchased.

Primary Analyst: SB
Contributing Analyst(s):
Reviewer: PR

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License and permit fees range from approximately \$11 to \$65 dollars¹.

The section also requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to allocate funds from the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund (MPMF) to DEEP to make up any revenue loss associated with permit fees for eligible tribe members. The MPMF is funded via a transfer from the General Fund that is equal to the appropriated amount for the MPMF Grant in each fiscal year. The amendment does not provide an additional revenue transfer from the GF to MPMF grant. It is unclear how this will impact the MPMF grants paid out of this fund.

Section 3 requires the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) to prioritize tribal meat, fish, and aquaculture facilities for technical assistance and various other federal support. This does not result in a cost to the state.

Section 4 potentially expands the number private land deer permits issued by DEEP annually, which could result in a revenue loss to the General Fund. The scope of the revenue loss is indeterminate as it is unknown how many ceremonial permits will be issued and correspondingly how many fewer hunting and fishing (paid) permits will be purchased.

Section 5 allows tribes to submit a report to OPM listing any additional state-issued permits, licenses, endorsements, or stamps and the associated cost. The section requires OPM to allocate funds from the MPMF for these costs. The MPMF is funded via a transfer from the General Fund that is equal to the appropriated amount for the MPMF Grant in each fiscal year. The amendment does not provide an additional revenue transfer from the GF to MPMF grant. It is unclear how this will impact the MPMF grants paid out of this fund.

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

¹<https://portal.ct.gov/deep/hunting/2026-connecticut-hunting-and-trapping-guide/hunting-and-trapping-licenses>

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of free permits and licenses issued and the corresponding revenue loss as well as the impact to the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund.

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.