



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: S. 0454 As signed by the Governor on June 8, 2016
Author: Campsen
Subject: Hunting and Fishing Licenses
Requestor: Senate
RFA Analyst(s): Wren and Stein
Impact Date: July 7, 2016

Estimate of Fiscal Impact

	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18
State Expenditure		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	Undetermined	\$0
Full-Time Equivalent Position(s)	0.00	0.00
State Revenue		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	Undetermined	\$0
Local Expenditure	\$0	\$0
Local Revenue	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Impact Summary

The bill as amended would have no expenditure or revenue impact on the General Fund. The expenditure and revenue impact on Other Funds and Federal Funds is undetermined.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Explanation of Amendment by the Senate on May 24, 2016

State Expenditure

The bill as amended expands the permit program by requiring hunters to obtain antlerless and antler restriction deer tags. In addition, the amended bill specifies how revenue from the sale of non-residential antlered deer tags and resident antler restriction individual deer tags is to be used. Section 50-11-315 is added, which requires all deer taken to be tagged and provides the penalties for altering such tags.

Department of Natural Resources. The department provided data for companion House Bill 4943 and indicated that the bill would have no expenditure impact on the General Fund. However, the bill would require an additional expenditure of Other Funds in order to notify the public of the changes in the tagging laws and regulations, to print additional tag sets to comply with each option, and postage for mailing out new tag sets. At this time, it is not known how the bill will affect the buyer demand for the various hunting tags. Therefore, it is not possible to estimate the expenditure required to comply with the provisions of this bill. The bill might have an impact on federal funds received by the department. The federal government matches every one dollar in state hunting fee revenue collected by the department with three federal dollars. Currently, the department receives the maximum federal allocation. The department indicates

that if revenues were to decrease due to buyer resistance to the new tag fee system, the federal allocation would be subject to reduction. Therefore, the expenditure impact of this bill is undetermined.

State Revenue

This bill as amended provides that residents will receive eight date-specific individual antlerless deer tags and three unrestricted individual antlered deer tags with the purchase of a state hunting license and a big game permit. Hunters under the age of sixteen, lifetime, and gratis licensees may receive these tags upon request from the Department of Natural Resources. Residents, including persons under the age of sixteen, lifetime, and gratis licensees also may purchase two antler restriction individual antlered deer tags for five dollars per tag. Residents may also purchase additional individual antlerless deer tags at the current fee of five dollars per tag. Non-residents may purchase up to four antlered deer tags, with a fifty dollar fee for the first tag and twenty dollars for each additional tag, with a maximum number of four antlered deer tags. Non-residents may also purchase individual antlerless deer tags for ten dollars each. Eighty percent of the funds received from non-resident antlered deer tags must be used to administer the tag program, for deer management, and for research. The remaining twenty percent must be used for law enforcement. Funds received from the resident antler restriction individual antlered deer tags will be used to administer the Coyote Management Program.

The Department of Natural Resources provided data on the number of resident and non-resident antlerless deer tags issued in FY 2014-15 for House Bill 4943. Assuming non-residents purchase a similar number of antlerless deer tags in FY 2016-17, Other Funds of the department would increase by approximately \$111,000. However, some consideration must be given to buyer resistance for the new fees. Also, the department does not track the number of harvested buck. Therefore, the revenue impact of this bill is undetermined for FY 2016-17.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A

Explanation of Bill Filed on February 12, 2015

State Expenditure

This bill amends Section 50-9-650 by providing that a person must have immediate access and authorization to utilize deer quota tags to hunt on property with a Deer Quota Program permit. Additionally, this bill expands the permit program by requiring hunters to possess a set of individual deer tags to hunt all deer and sets the fees for these individual tags. Also, Section 50-9-920(B) is amended, which relates to the revenues derived from the sale of licenses, permits and tags and to substitute Deer Quota Program permit for Antlerless Deer Quota permit. This bill also adds Section 50-11-315, which sets the bag limit taken with individual deer tags and provides penalties associated with violations of this section. Section 50-11-320 is added, which states that all deer taken must be tagged and provides the penalties for altering such tags.

Department of Natural Resources. The Department estimates, based on currently available data, that expansion of the deer quota program, so as to include bucks, will increase expenditures

by \$173,732 (in restricted funds) annually for printing and mailing tags. Any increase in deer quota program license revenue would be used to offset the increased costs. This bill would have no expenditure impact on the General Fund or Federal Funds.

State Revenue

This bill deletes the need for individual antlerless deer tags, which are currently five dollars for both residents and nonresidents and requires hunters to purchase a set of individual deer tags. The new individual deer tags are fifteen dollars for a combined set of antlered and antlerless deer tags for in-state residents and thirty dollars for out-of-state residents. Also, the Antlerless Deer Quota Program has been expanded to include bucks and as a result, renamed the Deer Quota Program. Additionally, this bill sets bag limits on the number of all deer taken with the new individual deer tags.

The Department of Natural Resources provided data on the number of antlerless deer tags and the number of big game permits sold in FY 2014. However, since the Department does not currently track the number of harvested bucks and the big game permit provides the privilege to hunt bear and turkey in addition to deer, we do not have sufficient data to determine a revenue impact at this time.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director