

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-5354

AN ACT CONCERNING SNAPPING TURTLES AND RED-EARED SLIDER TURTLES.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 19 \$	FY 20 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill prohibits the commercial trade in snapping turtles until the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) adopts applicable regulations. As the agency currently has expertise for this purpose, there is no fiscal impact associated with this provision.

The bill also prohibits the importation of red-slider turtles. To the extent this prohibition results in a significant increase in complaints to DEEP's Environmental Conservation (EnCon) police, this may result in: (1) shifting EnCon officers' duties away from their regular tasks to enforce the prohibition, or (2) a minimal increase in EnCon overtime costs associated with enforcement.¹

Lastly, the bill prohibits the release of red-eared slider turtles, except for research. This provision has no fiscal impact, as it clarifies current practice.

The Out Years

¹ In FY 18, it is estimated that the EnCon Division will spend \$383,000 on overtime.

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of complaints.

Municipal Impact: None