

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-6314

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR DISCOUNTED HUNTING, TRAPPING
AND FISHING LICENSES FOR VETERANS AND ACTIVE DUTY
MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Revenue Loss	140,000	140,000
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Potential Revenue Loss	Approximately 250,000	Approximately 250,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in an annual revenue loss of approximately \$140,000 beginning in FY 24 to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) since it reduces to 50% of the resident rate, the fees charged to veterans and active duty armed forces members for certain sporting licenses. This estimate assumes that the full eligible population under the bill would take advantage of the discounted sporting licenses. The bill may also potentially result in forgone federal revenue, of approximately \$250,000 annually beginning in FY 24.

Over the past five fiscal years, the average annual revenue collected for sporting licenses was \$7,274,124. The population pertaining to the bill's provisions is 145,387, or about 4% of the state's population. Assuming the veteran and activity duty population obtains sporting licenses at the same rate as the general population, the bill's specified fee

reductions result in the estimated General Fund revenue loss discussed above.

The bill may also result in annual forgone revenue to DEEP beginning in FY 24 in the form of federal reimbursements made from the federal Pittman-Robertson Act and Dingell-Johnson Act (known as the Wildlife Restoration Act) which helps to fund the agency's Bureau of Natural Resources, to the extent funding is provided from Congress.

Since the bill would reduce revenue from the sale of certain sporting licenses, the state would not be eligible to receive as much in federal reimbursements because the reimbursements are based on the amount of licensing revenue. In FY 22, a total of \$1.1 billion was apportioned, with Connecticut receiving approximately \$12.8 million. Based on the assumptions outlined, the magnitude of the potential federal foregone revenue could be approximately \$250,000 annually.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of eligible sportsmen and sportswomen who seek the discounted licenses.