

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-1148

AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN KILLING OF BLACK BEAR  
AND PROHIBITING BIRD FEEDERS AND OTHER  
UNINTENTIONAL AND INTENTIONAL FEEDING OF  
POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS.

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## ***OFA Fiscal Note***

### ***State Impact:***

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 24 \$</b>	<b>FY 25 \$</b>
Resources of the General Fund; Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below
Judicial Dept. (Probation)	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

***Municipal Impact:*** None

### ***Explanation***

The bill alters laws concerning wild animals and nuisance wildlife, resulting in the fiscal impacts described below.

**Section 1** allows people to obtain a permit from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to kill nuisance wildlife under certain circumstances and conditions, beginning in FY 24. If a person violates the conditions of the permit or other provisions of the bill, they may be charged with a class D misdemeanor. This results in a potential cost to the state for incarceration or probation and a potential revenue gain to the resources of the General Fund from fines. On average, the marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than

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\$800<sup>1</sup> each year.

**Section 1** also authorizes the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to issue permits for the taking of certain wildlife; however, as there are no fees associated with these permits, there is no fiscal impact associated with this provision.

**Section 2** has no fiscal impact as it clarifies the use of deadly force against bears under certain conditions.

**Section 3** prohibits feeding potentially dangerous animals (including bears) and creates infractions for violations of this provision. Infractions are not crimes and are punishable by fines that usually range from \$100 to \$300. This section results in a potential revenue gain to DEEP beginning in FY 24 from fines to the extent these infractions occur.

### ***The Out Years***

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

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<sup>1</sup> Probation marginal cost is based on services provided by private providers and only includes costs that increase with each additional participant. This does not include a cost for additional supervision by a probation officer unless a new offense is anticipated to result in enough additional offenders to require additional probation officers.