

EXHIBIT 6  
DATE 3-15-05  
SB 339

Senate Bill 339  
March 15, 2005  
Presented by Larry Peterman  
House Fish, Wildlife & Parks Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, for the record I am Larry Peterman, Chief of Field Operations for Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP).

The sacrifice by the men and women of Montana's National Guard, Federal Reserve and active duty military personnel during times of war or other contingency operation is something we all should recognize and be proud of. During this session there have been several bills designed to recognize our service men and women for their commitment, dedication and sacrifice. SB 339 is one of them.

FWP has not taken a position on SB 339 but is here to provide the following information. As amended and passed by the Senate, SB 339 proposes to issue a half-price resident sportsman's (without bear) license to resident members of the Montana National Guard, Federal Reserve and other active duty military personnel returning from a contingency operation out of state in the year they were released from active duty or the following year and extends that benefit for one additional year. It also offers that benefit to those who have served in contingent operations since September 11, 2001.

For the development of the fiscal note, we determined the number of active duty service personnel involved by looking at recruitment rates and assumed the same amount would leave active duty each year. For the National Guard and Reservist we looked at annual recruitment rates. Based on deployment rates during this time, 48.2% of the active military personnel and 80% of all Reserve and National Guard personnel would have been involved in or were supporting a contingency operation, and that 60% of those involved would take advantage of this benefit. The financial impact was determined by the type of licenses the eligible military personnel would have purchased based on past buying patterns. The financial impact to FWP for FY 2006 would be \$6,819 and in FY 2007, it would be \$8,182. The long range fiscal impact would be a net loss to FWP revenue in FY 08 will be \$1,363.

This Committee has before it another bill, SB 55, which will give Montana National Guard, and Federal Reserve members who were mobilized through a congressional or presidential call up a free conservation license. Since both SB 55 and SB 339 involve Montana National Guard and conservations licenses the Committee may want to discuss both bills in Executive Action at the same time.

Mr. Chairman we would like to note an inconsistency within the bill. Page 6, lines 12 and 13 refer to a "half-priced Class AAA resident combination sports license, except a bear license", which was the intent of the amended bill. However, page 3, lines 21-21 and page 4, lines 5 and 6 refer to a half-priced Class AAA resident combination sports license, which include a Class A-6 (bear) license. The intent of the amendment was allow for a resident combination sports license without Bear since there are deadlines in order to purchase the bear license. April 14 is the deadline for spring bear season and August 31 is the deadlines to purchase fall bear licenses.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.