



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2015 Biennium

Bill #	HB0375	Title:	Elk, deer, and antelope damage reimbursement program
Primary Sponsor:	Ballance, Nancy	Status:	As Amended in House Committee

- Significant Local Gov Impact
 Needs to be included in HB 2
 Technical Concerns
 Included in the Executive Budget
 Significant Long-Term Impacts
 Dedicated Revenue Form Attached

FISCAL SUMMARY

	<u>FY 2014 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2015 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2016 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2017 Difference</u>
Expenditures:				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Special Revenue	\$1,038,519	\$1,038,519	\$1,053,976	\$1,067,117
Revenue:				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Special Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Impact-General Fund Balance:	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

Description of fiscal impact: HB 375, as amended, would require the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) to establish a damage reimbursement program to reimburse producers for crop losses or damages caused by elk, deer, and antelope.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions:

Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP)

Expenses

- FWP assumes that there will be a total of 300 complaints filed annually with a Game Damage Compensation Program.
- FWP assumes it will require two people per region for the high game damage period of January – September which equates to 10.5 FTE. (1.50 FTE x 7 = 10.5 FTE)
- The annual staff and operations cost to respond to game damage complaints is \$744,519.
 - \$417,519 for personal services
 - \$327,000 for operating expenses
- FWP assumes that 80% of the 300 claims for compensation will be approved for payment, resulting in 240 claims receiving compensation. (300 X 80% = 240)
- The total annual compensation cost is \$294,000.

- a. FWP assumes that 50% of the approved claims will involve compensation for damage to standing or stored alfalfa, with an average claim payment of \$850 for a total of \$102,000. (240 x 50% x \$850)
 - b. FWP assumes that the remaining 50% of the approved claims will involve compensation for damage to grains, corn, or other commodity crops, with an average claim payment of \$1,600 for a total of \$192,000. (240 x 50% x \$1,600)
6. Total annual cost for the Game Damage Compensation Program is \$1,038,519. (\$744,519 + \$294,000)

Funding Shortfall

- 7. As amended, HB 375 states that the department shall use federal funds to implement the bill.
- 8. Current Funding: Payments to landowners for wildlife-associated crop losses constitute expenses that are not approved for federal funding under the current Wildlife Restoration Program grant contract, therefore the additional revenue required to fund the expenses in HB 375 must be requested from and approved by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) prior to becoming available to FWP for expenditure.
- 9. New Requests: In accordance with federal regulation 50 CFR 80.50, payments to landowners for crop damage associated with wildlife is not an eligible expense under the Wildlife Restoration Program. Therefore, the USFWS will not approve a request for funding to cover payments to landowners for wildlife-associated crop losses. As a result, FWP will not be able to comply with HB 375 because there is no funding source available to the agency to cover the required expenses.

	<u>FY 2014 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2015 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2016 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2017 Difference</u>
<u>Fiscal Impact:</u>				
FTE				
Game Damage Comp Prog.	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50
<u>Expenditures:</u>				
Personal Services				
Game Damage Comp Prog.	\$417,519	\$417,519	\$423,661	\$427,347
Operating Expenses				
Game Damage Comp Prog.	\$621,000	\$621,000	\$630,315	\$639,770
TOTAL Expenditures	<u>\$1,038,519</u>	<u>\$1,038,519</u>	<u>\$1,053,976</u>	<u>\$1,067,117</u>
<u>Funding of Expenditures:</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Special Revenue (03)	\$1,038,519	\$1,038,519	\$1,053,976	\$1,067,117
TOTAL Funding of Exp.	<u>\$1,038,519</u>	<u>\$1,038,519</u>	<u>\$1,053,976</u>	<u>\$1,067,117</u>
<u>Revenues:</u>				
Federal Special Revenue (03)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL Revenues	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures):</u>				
Federal Special Revenue (03)	(\$1,038,519)	(\$1,038,519)	(\$1,053,976)	(\$1,067,117)

Sponsor's Initials

Date

Budget Director's Initials

Date