



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2023 Biennium

Bill # HB0160

Title: Free hunting/fishing for service members/veterans with 50% disability rating

Primary Sponsor: Kerns, Scot

Status: As Introduced

- 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 2022</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2023</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2024</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2025</u> <u>Difference</u>
Expenditures:				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue:				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue	(\$102,152)	(\$136,202)	(\$136,202)	(\$136,202)
Net Impact-General Fund Balance:	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

Description of fiscal impact: HB 160 allows for resident service-connected disabled veterans of the armed forces with a minimum of 50% disability rate to receive a wildlife conservation license, a base hunting license, an aquatic invasive species prevention pass, and a Class AAA combination sports license not to include a Class A-6 black bear tag at no cost.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions:

1. HB160 moves the language for disabled veterans who meet the qualifying criteria for deer licenses from Restrictions on hunting licenses to Licenses for service members.
2. HB 160 eliminates the current half price deer tags for resident disabled veterans who meet the qualifying criteria.
3. HB 160 creates a new section that provides a Montana resident, who is a service-connected disabled veteran with a minimum 50% disability rate a new option of four different tags at no cost.

4. Statistics received from the US Department of Veterans Affairs states there are 22,195 service-connected disabled veterans that reside in Montana.
5. This is estimated at 2.22% of Montana's population.
6. In 2020, Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) had 149,653 adult hunters.
7. Applying the percentage of service-connected disabled veterans that reside in Montana to the number of adult hunters, there are 3,321 service-connected disabled veteran hunters (149,653 hunter's x 2.22%).
8. Statistics from Veteransuited.com states 41% have a disability rate of 60% or higher. FWP estimates service-connected disabled veterans with a 50% disability rate or higher is 50%.
9. Applying the 50% disability rate to 3,321 resident service-connected disabled veteran hunters estimates there are 1,661 service-connected disabled veteran hunters with a 50% or higher disability rate (50% x 3,321 resident service-connected disabled veteran hunters).
10. FWP estimates Montana has 1,661 service-connected disabled veteran hunters with a 50% or higher disability rate.
11. The current total cost to purchase the four licenses is \$82.
12. The annual total reduction in revenue from the four licenses at no cost would be (\$136,202).
13. The license year runs from March 1 to February 28 annually, with a majority of licenses purchased in May and June.
14. Because the effective date of the bill is not until March 1, 2022 and not a full year, FY 2022 has a lower estimated reduction in revenue for license sales of (\$102,152).
15. The FY 2023, FY 2024, and FY 2025 reduction in revenue is (\$136,202).

	<u>FY 2022</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2023</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2024</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2025</u> <u>Difference</u>
<u>Fiscal Impact:</u>				
<u>Expenditures:</u>				
Operating Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL Expenditures	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<u>Funding of Expenditures:</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue (02)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL Funding of Exp.	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<u>Revenues:</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue (02)	(\$102,152)	(\$136,202)	(\$136,202)	(\$136,202)
TOTAL Revenues	<u>(\$102,152)</u>	<u>(\$136,202)</u>	<u>(\$136,202)</u>	<u>(\$136,202)</u>
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures):</u>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Special Revenue (02)	(\$102,152)	(\$136,202)	(\$136,202)	(\$136,202)

NOT SIGNED BY SPONSOR

_____ 1/19/21 KA 1/19/21
Sponsor's Initials *Date* *Budget Director's Initials* *Date*