

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6909

BILL NUMBER: SB 241

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 22, 2024

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Taking Bobcats.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Baldwin

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: GENERAL
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: The bill requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish and implement a season to take bobcats not later than July 1, 2025.

Effective Date: July 1, 2024.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill could minimally increase workload for the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to adopt rules no later than July 1, 2025, to establish and implement a bobcat hunting season. Rulemaking is a routine function of the NRC.

Explanation of State Revenues: The bill could increase revenue to the Fish and Wildlife Fund as it requires a separate bobcat hunting license to take a bobcat. It establishes that license fees must be set at a minimum of \$15 for a resident, \$24 for a nonresident youth, and \$120 for a nonresident (resident youth would not need a separate bobcat hunting license as the current resident youth hunt/trap combo license allows for the taking of all species). Rules must be adopted no later than July 1, 2025, so the full revenue impact of the bill may not be seen until FY 2026.

Additional Information: For an example of the number of people who may purchase a new bobcat hunting license, the following table includes the number of small game and turkey licenses sold for the 2022 hunting seasons. The bobcat population in Indiana is estimated at around 1,000.

2022 Hunting Season: Number of Resident, Nonresident Youth, and Nonresident Licenses Sold			
License Type	Resident	Nonresident Youth	Nonresident
Hunt, Hunt/Fish Combo*, and Trap	98,871	248	4,197
Spring and Fall Turkey	27,963	164	1,779
DAV Annual Hunt and Hunt/Fish	789	N/A	
DAV 10-year Hunt and Hunt Fish	8,926		
Numbers include apprentice licenses. *Hunt/fish combo licenses are only available to residents.			

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Natural Resources; Natural Resources Commission.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources:

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/licenses-and-permits/license-fees/>;

https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Final_2022-National-Survey_101223-accessible-single-page.pdf;

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/wildlife-resources/animals/white-tailed-deer/special-antlerless-firearms-season/>;

<https://hecshunting.com/blog/indiana-hunting-seasons/>.

<https://a-z-animals.com/blog/bobcat-population-by-state-how-many-live-in-yours/>

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