



March 1, 2024

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Establishes that it is unlawful for any person to hunt, kill, trap, ensnare, or destroy or attempt to destroy, or to have in such person's possession, a sandhill crane. Specifies that the illegal taking or possession of each sandhill crane constitutes a separate offense, and establishes that such is a Class B misdemeanor offense, punishable by fine only.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Decrease State Revenue –**

**\$6,000/FY24-25 and Subsequent Years/Wildlife Resources Fund**

Assumptions:

- The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) currently manages a season for the harvest of Sandhill Cranes.
- Sandhill cranes are a federal migratory board that is allowed to have one season consistent with the *Federal Migratory Treaty Act*, which is overseen by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Only individuals with a Tennessee Sandhill Crane Tag may hunt in the TWRA's sandhill quota hunt, which is limited to 1,250 hunters.
- TWRA collects non-refundable application and license fees for the hunt. In FY22-23 such collections were \$6,012. This law would prohibit the hunting of Sandhill Cranes and thereby result in a recurring decrease in state revenue to the Wildlife Resources Fund.
- Of the 1,250 participants in last year's hunt, 1,149 had sportsmen's licenses, which cover application and license fees.
- It is assumed that all remaining individuals, or 101 (1,250 – 1,149) participants, would attain a hunting license annually, regardless of the sandhill crane season; thus, no decrease in hunting license revenue as a result of this legislation.
- Therefore, the total recurring decrease in state revenue to the Wildlife Resources Fund in FY24-25 and subsequent years is estimated to be \$6,012.
- There will not be a sufficient number of prosecutions for state or local government to experience any significant increase in revenue or expenditures.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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