

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 2179 - HB 2382

March 4, 2018

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes disabled persons to hunt big game with an air bow for a reduced license fee of \$10.00.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Revenue –

\$9,200/Wildlife Resources Fund/FY19-20 and Subsequent Years

Decrease State Revenue –

\$9,200/Wildlife Resources Fund/FY18-19 and Subsequent Years

Increase State Expenditures –

\$9,200/General Fund/FY19-20 and Subsequent Years

Assumptions:

- In Tennessee, a hunter may purchase a Type 01 license for \$33.00 to hunt big game. The hunter must also purchase season specific licenses—e.g., big game gun, big game muzzleloader, and big game archery—to hunt certain seasons. Each season specific license is \$33.00.
- A person hunting big game for every season would spend \$132.00 (\$33.00 Type 01 + \$33.00 Gun + \$33.00 Muzzleloader + \$33.00 Archery) for standard licenses or \$165 for a sportsman license which covers all seasons.
- For purposes of this fiscal note, it is assumed that the average disabled person purchases a Type 01 license and one season specific license per year for a total of \$66.00.
- The proposed legislation would authorize such disabled persons to hunt big game for \$10.00 if such person hunts with an air bow.
- The proposed legislation will decrease revenue to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) by \$56.00 (\$66.00 average licenses purchased – \$10.00 license under proposed legislation) for each disabled person hunting with an air bow.
- Statistics from the TWRA show 147,017 license buyers in 2017.
- Statistics from the United States Census Bureau indicate that 11.2 percent of Tennessee residents under the age of 65 have a disability (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/TN>).
- The proposed legislation could result in up to 16,466 (147,017 x 0.112) disabled persons in Tennessee choosing to hunt with an air bow for \$10.00.

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- The first air bow was introduced to the market in 2016 (<https://www.bowhunting.com/blog/2017/05/14/airbow-legal-archery-season/>).
- It is assumed that most disabled persons in Tennessee that hunt do not currently hunt with an air bow. Further, it is assumed that most will not purchase an air bow, which retails for \$700-\$900 dollars, solely to take advantage of the reduced license established by the proposed legislation.
- It is assumed that one percent of disabled hunters, or 165 hunters (16,466 x 0.01), have an air bow and will purchase the \$10.00 license.
- The proposed legislation will decrease recurring revenue to the TWRA by \$9,240 (165 hunters x \$56.00 decrease to TWRA) beginning in FY18-19.
- Tennessee Code Annotated § 70-2-104(f) requires the TWRA to be reimbursed for any lost revenue resulting from the issuance of a free or partially-discounted combination hunting and fishing license created by statute on or after January 1, 2017, in an amount equal to the discounts received.
- The TWRA must maintain an accounting of lost revenue and submit the accounting to the Department of Finance and Administration by June 30 of each fiscal year. Within 30 days, the department must pay the actual amount of lost revenue for the fiscal year from the General Fund into the Wildlife Resources Fund.
- The proposed legislation will increase recurring state expenditures from the General Fund by \$9,240 beginning in FY19-20.

CERTIFICATION:

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



Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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