

# Legislative Analysis



## HUNTING LICENSE FEE INCREASES

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**House Bill 4624**

**Sponsor: Rep. Matthew Gillard**

**Committee: Appropriations**

**Complete to 5-13-07**

**BRIEF SUMMARY:** This bill would increase license fees for bear, deer, elk, waterfowl, and turkey hunters. Increases would occur in FY 2006-07, and incrementally each fiscal year until FY 2012-13.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** This license fee package would provide \$1.9 million in additional revenue in FY 2006-07, and \$9.9 million in FY 2007-08 over current levels. A detailed list of proposed increases is provided in Table 1, below. These projections assume a continuing 1.7% annual decline in the number of licenses sold, and a 5% resistance factor: one in 20 current hunters will not purchase a license because of the size of the fee increase. It is also assumed that the license fee increases included in this bill will be effective in August 2007.

### **THE APPARENT PROBLEM:**

The Game and Fish Protection Fund will have a deficit of \$9.0 million by the end of FY 2007-08 if no changes are made in the fees charged for hunting and fishing licenses. This bill provides for license increases for hunting licenses. Another bill (SB 406) provides for similar increases in fishing licenses. Since 1987, the number of hunters has dropped by 14.3% (from 925,332 to 789,244). These decreases, coupled with the increase in resource management responsibilities placed on the department by Federal agencies and the courts, have placed a significant burden on Game and Fish Protection Fund programs. The department has reduced spending from these revenues by \$8.0 million: the number of conservation officers has been reduced by 28%, and the number of positions supported by these fees has been reduced by nearly 9%. If this license proposal is not approved, game programs will be further reduced by \$7.8 million (reductions related to this bill would amount to \$6.6 million in FY 2007-08).

### **THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:**

The following license fee changes would occur if this bill is enacted in its current form.

Table 1  
License Prices based on HB 4624

Category	License Name	Current License Plate	LY 07	LY08	LY09	LY10	LY11	LY12	LY13
Antlerless Deer	Junior Antlerless Deer	10.00	6.25	7.50	8.75	10.00	10.00	10.50	11.00
Antlerless Deer	Non Resident Antlerless Deer	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Antlerless Deer	Resident Antlerless Deer	10.00	12.50	15.00	17.50	20.00	20.00	21.00	22.05
Applications	Applications	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Bear	Non Resident Bear	150.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Bear	Resident Bear	15.00	23.75	32.50	41.25	50.00	50.00	52.50	55.13
Bear	Senior Bear	6.00	9.50	13.00	16.50	22.50	25.00	29.00	33.00
Deer	Junior Firearm Deer	15.00	9.50	11.25	13.25	15.00	15.00	15.75	16.50
Deer	Junior Archery Deer	7.50	9.50	11.25	13.25	15.00	15.00	15.75	16.50
Deer	Junior Combo Deer	15.00	19.00	22.50	26.50	30.00	30.00	31.50	33.00
Deer	Non Resident Firearm/Archery	138.00	165.00	165.00	165.00	165.00	165.00	165.00	165.00
Deer	Non Resident Combo Deer	276.00	330.00	330.00	330.00	330.00	330.00	330.00	330.00
Deer	Resident Firearm/Archery Deer	15.00	18.75	22.50	26.25	30.00	30.00	31.50	33.08
Deer	Resident 2 <sup>nd</sup> Firearm/Archery Deer	15.00	22.50	30.00	37.50	45.00	45.00	47.25	49.61
Deer	Resident Combo Deer	30.00	41.25	52.50	63.75	75.00	75.00	78.75	82.69
Deer	Senior Firearm/Archery Deer	6.00	7.50	9.00	10.50	13.50	15.00	17.25	19.75
Deer	Senior Combo Deer	12.00	15.00	18.00	21.00	27.00	30.00	34.50	39.50
Elk	Elk License	100.00	125.00	150.00	175.00	200.00	200.00	210.00	220.50
Fowl	Annual Area Use Waterfowl	13.00	14.75	16.50	18.25	20.00	20.00	21.00	22.05
Fowl	Daily Area Use Waterfowl/Waterfowl Station Permit	4.00	4.75	5.50	6.25	7.00	7.00	7.35	7.72
Fowl	Waterfowl Hunting	5.00	6.25	7.50	8.75	10.00	10.00	10.50	11.03
Fur	Junior Fur Harvester/Fur Trap Only	7.50	8.25	8.75	9.50	10.00	10.00	10.50	11.00
Fur	Non Resident Fur Harvester/Fur Trap	150.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
Fur	Resident Fur Harvester/Fur Trap	15.00	16.25	17.50	18.75	20.00	20.00	21.00	22.05
Fur	Senior Fur Harvester	6.00	6.50	7.00	7.50	9.00	10.00	11.50	13.25
Game	3 Day Non Resident Small Game	30.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
Game	Junior Small Game	1.00	8.25	8.75	9.50	10.00	10.00	10.50	11.00
Game	Non Resident Small Game	69.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Game	Resident Small Game/Gamebird Hunting Preserve	15.00	16.25	17.50	18.75	20.00	20.00	21.00	22.05
Game	Senior Small Game	6.00	6.50	7.00	7.50	9.00	10.00	11.50	13.25
Misc.	DNR Sportcard	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Turkey	Non Resident Turkey	69.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00
Turkey	Resident Turkey	15.00	18.75	22.50	26.25	30.00	30.00	31.50	33.08
Turkey	Senior Turkey	6.00	7.50	9.00	10.50	13.50	15.00	17.25	19.75

\* Antlerless Deer licenses are listed at 2/3 of the maximum price allowed by statute.

\*\* Military licenses are \$1.00

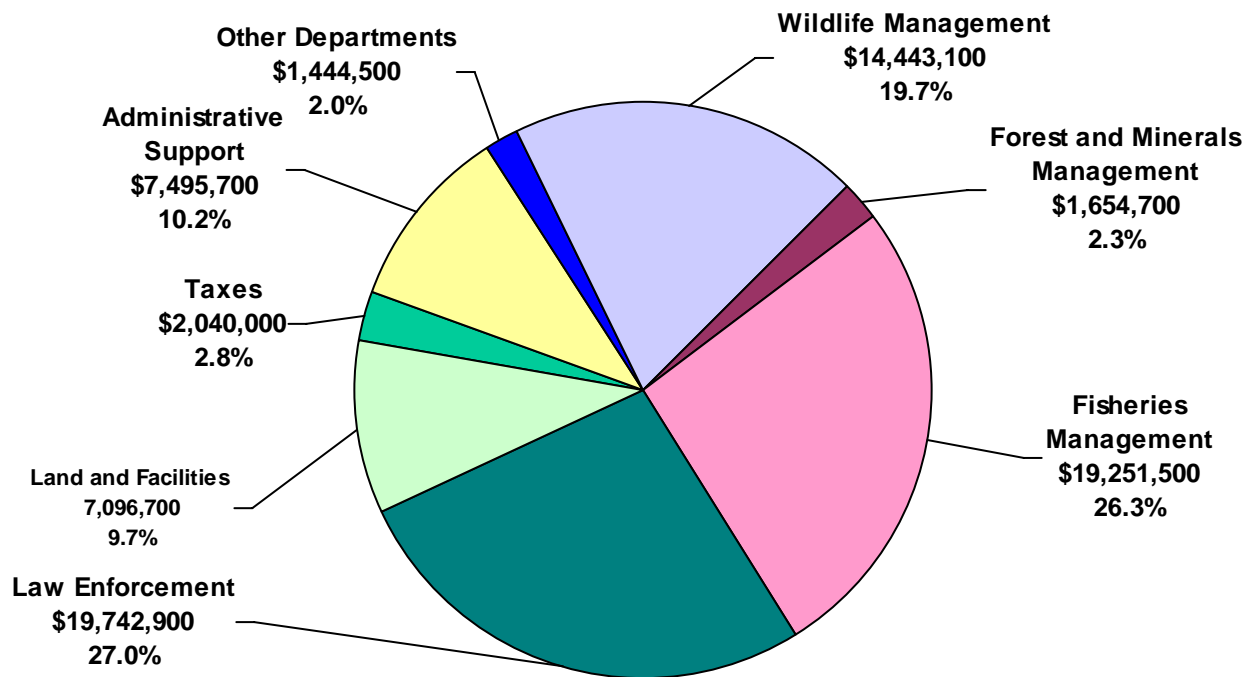
\*\*\* Senior licenses are discounted at the following percentages: LY07, LY08 and LY 09 – 60%; LY10 – 55% ; LY 12 – 45%; LY13 – 40%

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The last legislated fee increase occurred in 1996. During the last 10 years, General Fund support for department programs has been reduced by 23.3%. Of \$25.3 million appropriated in FY 2006-07, \$12.6 million supports transfer payments to local governments through Payments in Lieu of Taxes. Nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of total departmental revenue comes from license and fee revenue.

## **Game and Fish Fund Appropriations**

FY 2006-07 Total = \$73,169,100



It should be noted that \$7.5 million is appropriated for administrative support programs (including information technology and the license sales system) and field operations and land management programs receive \$7.1 million.

Fiscal Analyst: Kirk Lindquist

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.