

Legislative Analysis



HUNTING & FISHING LICENSE DISCOUNTS

Mitchell Bean, Director
Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

Senate Bill 349 (Substitute H-1)

Sponsor: Sen. Jim Barcia

House Committee: Tourism, Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resources

Senate Committee: Hunting, Fishing and Outdoor Recreation

Complete to 6-9-09

A SUMMARY OF SENATE BILL 349 AS REPORTED FROM HOUSE COMMITTEE 6-2-09

The bill would amend Part 435 (Hunting and Fishing Licensing) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to remove certain restrictions on discounts offered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on hunting and fishing licenses. (MCL 324.43521)

Currently, the DNR may offer the following discounts:

- A **marketing discount of up to 15 percent** to increase participation in hunting and fishing activities.
- A **discounted fee or no fee for an antlerless deer license** in a specific area as needed to increase the harvest of antlerless deer.
- A **sportsperson discount of 15 percent** when someone buys four or more licenses at the same time for the same person. (Waterfowl hunting and limited fishing licenses are not eligible for the sportsperson discount.)

Under Senate Bill 349, as amended by the House Committee, the DNR could (1) provide a marketing discount ***of any amount*** to increase participation in hunting and fishing activities, and (2) provide a discounted fee or no fee ***for any license or application*** (not just antlerless deer) to achieve a harvest or management objective for that species. (Specific provisions for sportsperson and antlerless deer discounts would be eliminated.) Language in the Senate-passed version of the bill regarding partnerships with hunting and fishing groups and discounts for members of those groups has been deleted.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on game and fish license revenue depending on the amount and time period affected by discounts approved by the department.

POSITIONS:

The Department of Natural Resources supports the bill. (6-2-09)

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs indicated support for the bill. (6-2-09)

Legislative Analyst: Shannan Kane

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.