



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Session 2021

Legislative Fiscal Note

Short Title: Wildlife Resources Comm'n. Amendments.-AB
Bill Number: House Bill 181 (Third Edition)
Sponsor(s): Representatives Adams, Yarborough, and Wray

SUMMARY TABLE

FISCAL IMPACT OF H.B.181, V.3

	<u>FY 2021-22</u>	<u>FY 2022-23</u>	<u>FY 2023-24</u>	<u>FY 2024-25</u>	<u>FY 2025-26</u>
Wildlife Resources Commission					
General Fund Revenue	10,925	10,925	10,925	10,925	10,925
<u>Less Expenditures</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
General Fund Impact	10,925	10,925	10,925	10,925	10,925
Special Fund Revenues	(83,664)	(83,664)	(83,664)	(83,664)	(83,664)
<u>Less Expenditures</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Special Fund Impact	(83,664)	(83,664)	(83,664)	(83,664)	(83,664)
DOA — Motor Fleet Division					
Internal Service Fund Revenue	(61,739)	(61,739)	(61,739)	(61,739)	(61,739)
<u>Less Expenditures</u>	<u>(61,739)</u>	<u>(61,739)</u>	<u>(61,739)</u>	<u>(61,739)</u>	<u>(61,739)</u>
Internal Service Fund Impact	-	-	-	-	-
NET STATE IMPACT	(72,739)	(72,739)	(72,739)	(72,739)	(72,739)

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY

H.B. 181, Wildlife Resources Comm'n. Amendments.-AB, would create fiscal impacts for the Department of Administration (DOA) and the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC). Section 3 would reduce the total requirements and receipts for the Division of Motor Fleet Management within DOA as a result of a WRC vehicle exemption. Those reductions would only impact the Motor Fleet internal service fund and would not impact the General Fund. Sections 6, 7, and 11 would impact WRC through the creation of a new certification, providing an exemption to veterans, and providing a discount to residents of a certain age when purchasing a lifetime sportsman license. Section 6 would increase receipts to the General Fund by \$10,925. Sections 7 and 11 would reduce special fund receipts by a total of \$83,664 and would not impact the General Fund.

Department of Administration

Section 3: Motor Fleet Exemption

Section 3 exempts WRC from the requirement to transfer ownership of all passenger vehicles to the Division of Motor Fleet Management within DOA. In practice, that exempts WRC from paying vehicle management and maintenance fees to DOA. Without services from DOA, WRC would need to use funds within its budget to manage its vehicles.

Motor Fleet operates as an internal service fund, therefore there would be no impact to the General Fund associated with this exemption. However, there will be some impact to Motor Fleet. According to DOA, the exemption would result in an estimated reduction of \$61,793 in receipts from WRC to Motor Fleet (\$374.50 average fixed costs per vehicle times 165 vehicles currently assigned to WRC). Motor Fleet would also experience a reduction in total requirements associated with discontinued service and management of WRC vehicles. That reduction would be approximately equivalent to the receipt reduction.

Wildlife Resources Commission

Section 6: Wildlife Control Technician Certification Amendments

Section 6 creates a Wildlife Technician Certification, which would be an annual certification issued by WRC to an individual under the direct supervision of a licensed wildlife control agent. The fee for certification is \$25. The number of wildlife technicians working for licensed wildlife control agents is not known. However, there are currently 437 licensed wildlife control agents in the State. WRC anticipates wildlife control agents may employ up to five technicians each. If so, WRC would collect \$54,635 each year (5 times 437 times \$25). This estimate is based on the number of licenses sold to wildlife control agents which has only existed since November 2020. Little is known about how wildlife control agents operate their businesses. A more conservative estimate assumes that each wildlife control agent would hire one technician. If every wildlife control agent hires one wildlife technician, WRC would collect \$10,925 each year (437 times \$25). WRC currently collects the receipts for the Wildlife Control Agent License in its General Fund budget code and would do the same for the Wildlife Control Technician Certificate receipts. Therefore, Section 6 would have an impact of \$10,925 on the General Fund.

Section 7: Veterans Exemption for Mountain Heritage Trout Waters License

Section 7 waives the fee for the Mountain Heritage Trout fishing license for people who served as a member of the Armed Forces. The Mountain Heritage Trout fishing license is a three-day license allowing anglers to fish in a stream designated as a Mountain Heritage Trout Water. The fee for the license is \$8. The table below shows the average number of Mountain Heritage Trout fishing licenses sold to residents and nonresidents for the last five fiscal years.

Mountain Heritage Trout Fishing Licenses Sold, 2015-2020

	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	Average
Residents	433	577	710	667	1,039	685
Nonresidents	2,654	3,584	3,584	4,161	5,414	3,879
Total	3,087	4,161	4,294	4,828	6,453	4,565

The US Census Bureau website provides data on the number of veterans living in the State and the US.

Veterans as a Percentage of Total Populations, 2020

	NC	US
Total Number of Veterans	828,559	22,648,527
Total Population	10,488,084	328,239,523
Percentage	7.9%	6.9%

The table below applies the percentage of veterans in NC and the US to the average number of licenses sold to residents and nonresidents respectively to estimate the number veterans purchasing Mountain Heritage Trout Fishing Licenses each year.

**Estimated Number of Veteran
Mountain Heritage Trout Fishing Licenses**

	Residents	Nonresidents
Average Number of Licenses Sold	685	3,879
Veteran Percentage	7.9%	6.9%
Total	54	268

The total estimated number of veterans purchasing Mountain Heritage Trout Fishing Licenses is 322 (54 plus 268). Since each Mountain Heritage Trout Fishing License costs \$8, the total reduction to WRC's special funds for the veteran exemption in H.B. 181 is \$2,576 (322 licenses times \$8).

Section 11: Half-Priced Lifetime Licenses for Certain Residents

Section 11 provides fifty percent discounts to residents between 50 and 70 years of age when purchasing Adult Resident Lifetime Sportsman Licenses (Sportsman Licenses) or Resident Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses (Unified Sportsman Licenses).¹

The table below shows the average number of Sportsman and Unified Sportsman licenses sold to individuals between 50 and 70 years old for the last five fiscal years.

¹ Section 11 includes an exception for individuals qualifying for a discounted Sportsman and Unified Sportsman license due to G.S. 113-276(o) which provides a fifty percent discount to eligible firefighters. The numbers of Sportsman and Unified Sportsman licenses listed here do not include residents between 50 and 70 years of age who already qualify for a discount due to their status as a firefighter.

Licenses Sold to Residents Between 50 and 70 Years Old, 2015-2020

License	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	Average
Sportsman	95	73	89	113	139	102
Unified Sportsman	133	131	134	167	188	151
Total	228	204	223	280	327	253

The average number of Sportsman licenses sold to people between 50 to 70 years old is 102. The current price of the Sportsman License is \$530; half price is \$265. The total estimated reduction to WRC's special fund for the Sportsman License is \$27,030 (102 licenses times \$265).

The average number of Unified Sportsman licenses sold to people between 50 to 70 years old is 151. The current price of the Unified Sportsman License is \$716; half price is \$358. The total estimated reduction to WRC's special fund for the Unified License is \$54,058 (151 licenses times \$358).

Altogether, the changes in Section 11 of H.B. 181 would result in a loss of \$81,088 to WRC's special funds (\$27,030 plus \$54,058).

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS

N/A.

DATA SOURCES

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION; US CENSUS BUREAU; WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE – PURPOSE AND LIMITATIONS

This document is an official fiscal analysis prepared pursuant to Chapter 120 of the General Statutes and rules adopted by the Senate and House of Representatives. The estimates in this analysis are based on the data, assumptions, and methodology described in the Fiscal Analysis section of this document. This document only addresses sections of the bill that have projected direct fiscal impacts on State or local governments and does not address sections that have no projected fiscal impacts.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions on this analysis should be directed to the Fiscal Research Division at (919) 733-4910.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY

Grant Schwab
Katherine Tamer

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY

Mark Trogdon, Director of Fiscal Research
Fiscal Research Division
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