



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE
Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

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H.928 – An act relating to technical corrections to fish and wildlife statutes

As recommended by the Senate Committee on Finance¹

Bill Summary

The bill would make technical corrections to the points system statute for fish and wildlife violations. The bill would also give the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife the ability to determine whether licenses should expire on December 31 of the year they were issued or 365 days after the date of issuance. Finally, the bill would give the Commissioner the ability to create provisional big game tags beyond what is currently outlined in statute, with legislative approval of the provisional fee required within one year of its creation.

Fiscal Impact

The bill would have a minimal positive impact to license revenues, which flow to the Fish and Wildlife Fund. The ability to extend certain licenses to renew on a 365-day period would be discretionary but could increase fee revenue, since visitors in the latter part of the year might be more likely to buy an annual license as opposed to a one or two-day license if the license is valid for 365 days. The Department likely would not implement this change for any licenses in fiscal year 2027.

Additional big game tags created by the Commissioner could also increase license fee revenues. Currently, there are six big game licenses in statute: archery, muzzleloader, turkey, moose, bear, and additional deer archery. This bill could add additional tags at the prevailing rate for big game tags. However, the type of big game tags that would be created and the number of each tag that would be sold is not known. Estimates for each tag would be available when the General Assembly approves each provisional big game tag.

Department of Fish and Wildlife Rule 2008-01 provides the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife with authority to set fees for the use of Department lands including Wildlife Management Areas and Fishing Access Areas and makes changes to various fees. H.933, as passed by the House and Senate, would repeal Rule 2008-01 effective July 1, 2027. Except for conservation camp tuition fees, Sec. 3 of this bill would place the fee changes in Rule 2008-01 in statute. Since the fee amounts match fee changes adopted in Rule 2008-01, there is no impact from this section of the bill.

¹ The full fiscal note history is available on the fiscal tab of the bill page on the General Assembly website and can be pulled up through a bill number search on the JFO page.

¹ The Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) is a nonpartisan legislative office dedicated to producing unbiased fiscal analysis – this fiscal note is meant to provide information for legislative consideration, not to provide policy recommendations.