



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number:	H. 3538	Introduced on January 10, 2023
Author:	Hixon	
Subject:	Harvest Report	
Requestor:	House Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environmental Affairs	
RFA Analyst(s):	Miller	
Impact Date:	January 20, 2023	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill expands the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) electronic harvest reporting system from just wild turkey to all big game species. Failure to report is a misdemeanor that is subject to a fine of up to \$25.

This bill will increase Other Funds expenditures for DNR by \$15,000 in FY 2023-24 to contract with a vendor to produce awareness material and contact customers about the change in reporting and the expansion of the electronic reporting system to include all big game. However, the agency will not need to request an increase in Other Funds authorization to cover this increase.

Additionally, Revenue and Fiscal Affairs (RFA) anticipates this bill will have no expenditure impact for Judicial, as the potential increase in the number of cases in court for failure to report can be managed within the normal course of business for the court.

Further, this bill may result in an increase in Other Funds revenue for DNR. The Other Funds revenue is allocated to the County Game and Fish account for the county where the violation occurred. As the potential increase in the number of violations for failure to report due to the expanded reporting requirements is unknown, any increase in the number of fines collected is undetermined.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 10, 2023

State Expenditure

This bill requires DNR to have an electronic harvest reporting system for big game species among other responsibilities. Currently, DNR is required to have an electronic harvest reporting system for wild turkey. The electronic harvest reporting system currently exists as part of the GoOutdoorsSC application. This bill expands the harvest reporting system to all big game.

To implement the provisions of this bill, DNR anticipates contracting with a vendor to produce awareness material and contact customers that have engaged in big game hunting over the recent years. This will result in a one-time Other Funds expenditure of \$15,000 in FY 2023-24.

However, DNR does not anticipate needing to request an increase in Other Funds authorization as a result of this bill.

Additionally, failure to report is a misdemeanor that is subject to a fine of up to \$25. As this bill expands the harvest reporting system to all big game, this may increase the number of failures to report. This may increase the caseload for the court to adjudicate these additional violations. However, RFA anticipates any additional cases can be managed within the normal course of business for the court, and thereby, will have no expenditure impact on Judicial.

State Revenue

This bill expands the harvest reporting system to all big game. Failure to report is a misdemeanor that is subject to a fine of up to \$25.

During the most recent turkey season, five summons tickets and one warning were issued by DNR for failure to report. As this bill expands the reporting requirement, there may be an increase in the number of failures to report, which may result in an increase in the number of fines. However, the potential increase in the number of violations for failure to report, and thereby the increase in fine revenue, is unknown. Pursuant to §50-9-910, the revenue from the fine is credited to the County Game and Fish account for the county where the violation occurred. Therefore, this bill may result in an undetermined increase in Other Funds revenue for DNR.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director