

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 1050S.03C
Bill No.: SCS for SB 256
Subject: Department of Conservation; Fishing and Hunting; Veterans; Military Affairs
Type: Original
Date: March 31, 2023

Bill Summary: This proposal allows certain veterans and active duty members to be issued hunting and fishing permits free of charge.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Conservation Commission Fund (0609)	Could exceed (\$2,760,800)	Could exceed (\$3,312,960)	Could exceed (\$3,312,960)
Total Estimated Net Effect on Other State Funds	Could exceed (\$2,760,800)	Could exceed (\$3,312,960)	Could exceed (\$3,312,960)

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Federal Funds	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

- Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.
- Estimated Net Effect (savings or increased revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)** assume the following regarding this proposal:

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs there are 425,000 veterans living in Missouri. Approximately 44% of those are 65 or older and would presumably be already exempt from the normal fishing or small game hunting permit requirement because of their age.

That would leave around 238,000 veterans who may benefit from a small game and fishing permit exemption. MDC assumes that veterans would be likely to either hunt or fish in a similar percentage to the general population; therefore, MDC can estimate that approximately 71,400 (30%) would take advantage of firearm deer hunting permits, 28,560 (12%) spring turkey hunting permit, 28,560 (12%) archery hunting permit, 47,600 (20%) fishing permit and 35,700 (15%) small game hunting permit exemption.

• 47,600 fishing permits at \$12 =	\$571,200
• 35,700 hunting permits at \$10 =	\$357,000
• 71,400 deer hunting permit at \$19 =	\$1,356,600
• 28,560 turkey hunting permit at \$17 =	\$485,520
• 28,560 archery hunting permit at \$19 =	<u>\$542,640</u>
TOTAL	\$3,312,960

MDC estimates a total negative impact to the Department in permit revenue of \$3,312,960, plus loss of federal reimbursements estimated at \$2 million for a conservative negative fiscal impact of approximately \$5.3 million. MDC receives reimbursement from the federal government for permit sales made in the state. The free permits would not be counted; therefore, decreasing the number of permits sold.

Oversight does not have information to the contrary and therefore, Oversight will reflect the estimates as provided by MDC. Oversight notes, according to the Missouri National Guard website, there are 11,500 authorized members; therefore, Oversight will reflect the fiscal impact as “Could exceed...” the amounts indicated by MDC.

Oversight will range the fiscal impact of the potential loss of federal funds from \$0 (does not affect federal funding) to an “Unknown” loss (does affect federal funding).

Officials from the **Missouri Veterans Commission** and **Missouri National Guard** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations. **Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for these agencies.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2024 (10 Mo.)	FY 2025	FY 2026
CONSERVATION COMMISSION FUND			
Loss – MDC – providing veterans permits free of charge for life	<u>Could exceed</u> (\$2,760,800)	<u>Could exceed</u> (\$3,312,960)	<u>Could exceed</u> (\$3,312,960)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON CONSERVATION COMMISSION FUND (0609)	<u>Could exceed</u> (\$2,760,800)	<u>Could exceed</u> (\$3,312,960)	<u>Could exceed</u> (\$3,312,960)
FEDERAL FUNDS			
Loss – MDC – potential loss of federal reimbursements	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2024 (10 Mo.)	FY 2025	FY 2026
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

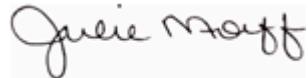
Under this act, any veteran, who was discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable, of any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, including the National Guard or any reserve component of the Armed Forces, shall be eligible to receive hunting and fishing permits free of charge for life, as well as current active members of the Missouri National Guard.

The Conservation Commission shall issue each permit upon request, unless the individual requesting a permit is otherwise prohibited from possessing a hunting or fishing permit by statute, rule, or regulation.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Veterans Commission
Missouri National Guard



Julie Morff
Director
March 31, 2023



Ross Strope
Assistant Director
March 31, 2023