

PREPARED BY:
DATE PREPARED:
PHONE:

Mike Lovelace
January 30, 2012
471-0050

LB 1081

Revision: 00

FISCAL NOTE

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES *				
	FY 2012-13		FY 2013-14	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS				
CASH FUNDS	130,096		130,096	
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	130,096		130,096	

*Does not include any impact on political subdivisions. See narrative for political subdivision estimates.

LB 1081 authorizes the Game and Parks Commission to issue a free antlerless deer permit to landowners who present proof of one thousand dollars of crop damage attributed to deer. Proof of damage consists of an official insurance estimate by a claims adjuster, a paid insurance claim for such damage, a yield map, or an estimate by the Commission. One permit may be issued for each one thousand dollars of crop damage. Hunting must take place on the land owned or farmed by the person issued the permit.

The Game and Parks Commission has indicated the need for additional temporary staff to review the evidence of the amount of crop damage, that it was attributable to deer, and for the possible involvement in the removal of unwanted deer carcasses. A total of 6 temporary positions for 6 months are estimated to cost \$81,346 annually. In addition to the personnel costs, the Commission estimates travel costs for the temporary positions to total \$48,750 for fuel. This estimate is based on 1,500 landowner visits, an average round trip of 150 miles, 15 mpg, and \$3.25 per gallon. Total costs identified by the Commission for both personnel and fuel are \$130,096 annually to be funded by the Game Cash Fund. Actual costs will be based on the demand for the free permits authorized by LB 1081, which is unknown at this point in time. Given this unknown demand there is no basis to disagree with the costs identified by the Commission.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

REVIEWED BY	Cindy Miserez	DATE 1/27/12	PHONE 471-2526
COMMENTS			
NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION: I have no basis to disagree with NGPC's estimate.			

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Please complete ALL (5) blanks in the first three lines.

LB⁽¹⁾ 1081 FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: (2) Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Prepared by: (3) Patrick H. Cole Date Prepared: (4) January 26, 2012 Phone: (5) (402) 471-5523

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	FY 2012-2013		FY 2013-2014	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS				
CASH FUNDS	130,096		130,096	
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	130,096		130,096	

Return by date specified or 72 hours prior to public hearing, whichever is earlier.

Explanation of Estimate:

The proposed legislation would require the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (Commission) to issue a free permit to hunt and take one antlerless deer for every one thousand dollars of proven crop damage attributed to deer to any person owning or operating farm land. The permit appears to allow the owner or operator or immediate family member to harvest the deer authorized by the permit. Additionally it allows the deer carcass to be disposed of in any manner, but implies the potential involvement of Commission staff.

The provisions of this legislation are similar in nature to the existing authority the Commission exercises in the issuance of kill permits under 37-560 and agency adopted regulations. Differences appear to relate to the manner in which proof of deer damage may occur, the definitive nature of quantifying the number of permits to be authorized, the timing of permit validity and the disposal of the carcass. The allowable methodologies for establishing proof of damage could increase the number of claims that would occur. While the yield loss may be quantifiable, the evidence that the damage could be attributed to deer may be lacking at the time of the claim, without Commission personnel involvement.

Currently the Commission authorizes free kill permits to landowners and their representatives authorizing the take of some 1,800 antlerless deer annually. Staff estimate that this quantity could double under the proposed legislation. Additional staff would be needed to address the expected increase in demand for the permits, their review of evidence and the possible involvement in deer carcass removal.

MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

Personal Services:

POSITION TITLE	NUMBER OF POSITIONS		2012-2013	2013-2014
	12-13	13-14	EXPENDITURES	EXPENDITURES
Conservation Tech I (temporary)	6	6	75,566	75,566
Benefits.....			5,780	5,780
Operating.....			48,750	48,750
Travel.....				
Capital outlay.....				
Aid.....				
Capital improvements.....				
TOTAL.....			130,096	130,096

LB⁽¹⁾ 1081 FISCAL NOTE

Due to the expected seasonal nature of the damage complaint response and possible carcass removal activities, temporary employees would be utilized for the anticipated increase in activity. Temporary Conservation Technician I's would be hired to fulfill the duties. At \$12.11 an hour (plus benefits), an estimated 6,240 hours would be required or \$81,346/annually (\$75,566/wages + 5,780 benefits). This would provide for at least 6 technicians over a 6 month period (based on time frame of when damage takes place, corn/bean emergence through tasseling and into early harvest, May-Oct). With an estimated harvest of 1,500 deer requiring some involvement of Commission staff and an average estimated 150 miles per deer travel requirement, assuming 15/mpg and \$3.25/gal gas expense, an additional \$48,750 would be needed to cover fuel expenses.