

Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

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FISCAL NOTE

Date: January 25, 2017

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H.58 An Act Relating to Awarding Hunting and Fishing Licenses at No Cost to Persons 65 Years of Age or Older – with House Ways and Means Amendment

Summary

The bill proposes to revert to a fee structure for the acquisition of a permanent hunting license. The current law states that permanent licenses may be obtained by Vermont residents for no cost at age 70. The bill proposes that a permanent license may be acquired at age 66 for a one-time fee of \$60.

The 66 year old Vermont resident could obtain one or all of the following:

- A permanent fishing license
- A combination hunting and fishing licenses, if qualified. Includes all big game licenses with the except of a moose license
- A trapping license, if qualified
- An archery license, if qualified.

The act would take effect on January 1, 2018.

Analysis

In 2015 the Department of Fish and Wildlife performed analysis to determine the revenue impact of a change from acquisition of a permanent license at 65 and a one-time application fee of \$50 to the current law of 70 and free. The revenues that would be generated by the cohort 65-69 were calculated based on the average amount spent on licenses annually. The full revenue stream would be realized in 5 years, as the 65 year old cohort matriculates. **The permanent licenses option of 70 and free will generate an average positive revenue of 0.33 million dollars annually** in year 6 of the program (see Table 1).

The current bill proposes a reversion to the previous fee structure; a Vermont resident would be able to a purchase permanent hunting license for a one-time fee of \$60 dollars at age 66. This would lead to an initial revenue boost for the department in years 2 and 3, during program transition. **The proposed change would generate an average fully realized annual revenue of 0.23 million dollars, a long term annual loss of \$100k year from current law.**

Table 1: Estimated Average Amount Spent on Licenses Annually by Age Group

Permanent License Options	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Age 66 and \$60	94,911	183,019	197,445	217,732	222,069	231,920
70 and free	94,911	97,444	154,780	209,267	263,430	328,185
<i>Difference in Revenue Streams</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>85,575</i>	<i>42,665</i>	<i>8,465</i>	<i>-41,361</i>	<i>-96,265</i>