

Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

One Baldwin Street • Montpelier, VT 05633-5701 • (802) 828-2295 • Fax: (802) 828-2483

FISCAL NOTE

Date: February 20, 2018
Prepared by: Daniel Dickerson

H.636 An act relating to miscellaneous fish and wildlife subjects – House Natural Resources, Fish And Wildlife Recommendation Of Amendment – Draft 1.7

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2018/WorkGroups/House%20Natural/Bills/H.636/H.636~Michael%20Grady~As%20Recommended~2-9-2018.pdf>

Bill Summary

This bill contains numerous policy provisions that fall within the purview of the VT Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (Department). The provisions apply to, but are not limited to, the duties of the commissioner, fish & wildlife lands, lottery applications, waterfowl stamps, law enforcement, and coyote hunting.

Fiscal Impacts

Sec. 4 – This section would allow license agents to sell lottery applications and retain \$1.50 from each lottery application sold. Currently, all lottery applications are processed directly by the Department and lotteries are only held for moose permits and for antlerless deer permits. The existing fees for these applications are \$10 for residents and \$25 for non-residents. These fees would not change. The 2018 Executive Branch Fee Report shows that approximately 12,300 antlerless lottery applications and 5,800 moose lottery applications¹ are submitted annually. The revenue loss could range from \$0-\$25k annually, depending on how many people elect to purchase lottery applications through agents rather than directly through the Department. The Department estimates that any lost revenue from sharing \$1.50 of future lottery application revenues with license agents would be offset by a reduction in staff time, internal printing and postage costs due to the Department processing fewer applications in-house.

Sec. 13 – The rulemaking process regarding persons who trap for compensation would require staff time that the Department has budgeted. The Department has not budgeted for 2-3 additional trapper education courses that it estimates would be required when the rule goes into effect. However, the section of law from which the rule would be derived would not go into effect until January 1, 2020, so the Department could build the cost of the additional courses into its FY20 budget. The cost of holding the 2-3 additional trapper education courses would be approximately \$4,000 per year starting in FY2020.

Sec. 15 and 18 – Both sections would require additional staff time, for game wardens to ensure compliance with 10 VSA §4716 (ban on coyote hunting competitions) and for Department legal and enforcement staff to review criminal and civil charges for fish and wildlife violations. The Department has budgeted for this extra time.

¹ Future moose hunting seasons are at risk due to moose population decline. There would be no lottery application process for moose permits in the event that there wasn't a moose season.