

Department of Planning and Budget 2003 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB2752

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☒ Enrolled

2. Patron Plum

3. Committee Passed Both Houses

4. Title Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Species Act

5. Summary/Purpose: The bill creates the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Species Act within the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. This bill declares the zebra mussel, quagga mussel, and all species of snakehead fishes of the family Channidae as nonindigenous aquatic nuisance species. This bill authorizes the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries to declare other nonindigenous aquatic nuisance species if it finds that the presence of such nonindigenous aquatic species in state waters poses or is likely to pose a significant threat of harm.

The bill authorizes the department to take measures to suppress, control, eradicate, prevent or retard the spread of any nonindigenous aquatic species. It also provides for a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 for any person that violates the provisions of the Act, and provides that such person is also liable for the costs of investigation, control and eradication incurred by a state agency or local government.

The bill has an emergency clause.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: Final. SEE ITEM 8.

7. Budget amendment necessary: No.

8. Fiscal implications: The bill provides that the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries may conduct operations to control or eradicate nonindigenous aquatic species subject to appropriations from the general fund or the receipt of funds from private entities, local governments, political subdivisions or federal grants authorized or designated for this purpose. Therefore, any potential fiscal impact associated with this bill would depend both on the degree to which nonindigenous aquatic species pose a significant threat of harm and the amount of funding provided to control or eradicate the species. There would be some costs to the agency associated with the potential promulgation of regulations (authorized by the bill). However, any such cost would not be significant and could be funded from existing resources.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

10. Technicalamendmentnecessary: No.

11. Othercomments: None.

Date: 03/07/03/mst

Document: G:\GaSessions\2003Session\Fis\Hb2752ER.Doc

cc:SecretaryofNaturalResources