

Department of Planning and Budget 2004 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number SB198

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron Reynolds

3. Committee Agriculture, Conservation, and Natural Resources

4. Title Bear damage stamp

5. Summary/Purpose: The bill requires any person who hunts bear to also obtain a four-dollar bear damage stamp. The moneys collected from the stamp will be deposited into the newly created Bear Damage Stamp Fund. The Fund will be used to compensate landowners for damages to their property caused by bears. Under a newly established Bear Damage Stamp program, a property owner will file a claim for damages with the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The report will include three estimates of the damages. The Department's game wardens or wildlife biologists will investigate the claim and the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries will make the decision regarding whether the claim is valid and the amount of compensation that will be awarded to the property owner.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are not available: SEE ITEM 8.

7. Budget amendment necessary: No.

8. Fiscal implications: The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries would be responsible for administering the Bear Damage Stamp program. This would involve printing the bear stamps, a game warden or wildlife biologist investigating the claims and the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries deciding to pay the claim. The bill allows 10 percent of the fund to be used for administration. The department estimates at most there are about 6,000 people who hunt bear in the state. This would result in \$24,000 in bear stamp fees being collected each year. Therefore, the department would be able to use 10 percent or \$2,400 for administration of the fund, which will not cover all of the department's costs to operate such a program. The agency would have to divert resources from other activities to cover the total costs of the program.

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

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: None.

Date: 01/23/04 / mst

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cc: Secretary of Natural Resources