

**Department of Planning and Budget  
2005 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number** HB2273

**House of Origin**     Introduced     Substitute     Engrossed  
**Second House**     In Committee     Substitute     Enrolled

**2. Patron**        Oder

**3. Committee**    Passed Both Houses

**4. Title**         Remote hunting prohibited; penalty.

**5. Summary/Purpose:**

Prohibits any individual from engaging in computer-assisted remote hunting or operating a facility that allows others to engage in computer-assisted remote hunting. The bill defines “computer-assisted remote hunting” as the use of a computer or other device, equipment, or software, to remotely control the aiming and discharge of a firearm or other weapon, that allows a person, not physically present, to hunt or shoot any wild animal or wild bird. Violations are Class 1 misdemeanors and will result in revocation of any hunting license for between three and five years.

**6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are:** Final. See item 8, below.

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** No.

**8. Fiscal implications:**

The bill establishes a new Class 1 misdemeanor penalty. The punishment for a Class 1 misdemeanor is confinement in jail for not more than twelve months and a fine of not more than \$2,500, either or both. There is not enough information available to reliably estimate how many additional inmates in jail could result from this proposal. Any increase in jail population will increase costs to the state. The Commonwealth pays the localities \$8.00 a day for each misdemeanant or otherwise local responsible prisoner held in a jail. It also funds most of the jails’ operating costs, e.g. correctional officers. The state’s share of these costs on a per prisoner, per day basis varies from locality to locality. However, according to the Compensation Board’s most recent Jail Cost Report (FY 2003), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$27.42 per inmate, per day in FY 2003. Revenue generated from such fines is deposited to the Literary Fund. Any revenue impact will depend on the number of convictions.

Any expenditure impact to the court system will be dependent on the number of hearings. Any impact the legislation may have on jail inmate population is unknown. According to the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the proposed legislation will not have a fiscal impact on that agency.

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the court system, and local jails.

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** No.

**11. Other comments:** SB 1083, also enrolled, is a companion bill.

**Date:** 03/04/05/tmw

**Document:** G:\2005 Session\Legislation\HB2273ER.Doc

cc: Secretary of Natural Resources