



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Tom Wert

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 272 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Reps. Householder and Kick

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Allows grandchildren to hunt and fish on their grandparents land without hunting or fishing licenses or permits and provides free hunting and fishing licenses to certain partially disabled veterans

State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill expands hunting and fishing license exemptions to grandchildren of any age hunting or fishing on property owned by their grandparents. This would likely result in an unknown loss of license fee revenue deposited to the credit of the Wildlife Fund (Fund 7015). Any loss in revenue would depend on the number of hunters and anglers that forego the purchase of hunting and fishing licenses because of the exemptions.
- Similarly, the bill increases the number of veterans with service-connected disabilities that would be eligible for free hunting and fishing licenses and permits. This would also likely result in a loss of license fee revenue deposited to the credit of Fund 7015. Any loss would depend on the number of free licenses issued that would otherwise have been purchased.
- Under the bill, the Division of Wildlife would issue fewer paid hunting and fishing licenses. As a result, there could be a loss of revenue from two federal grants awarded to the Division that are based in part on the number of paid licenses issued. Under the grants, a license is considered to be paid when the Division earns at least one dollar more than the cost of producing the license.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill expands the number of individuals who are not required to obtain hunting and fishing licenses and permits or who would qualify for free hunting and fishing licenses and permits. Specifically, the bill exempts grandchildren of any age from obtaining hunting and fishing licenses and permits when hunting or fishing on land owned by their grandparents. The bill also extends eligibility to obtain free hunting and fishing licenses and permits to certain resident veterans with a service-connected disability with a schedule rating of 50% or more for compensation based on individual employability for the service-connected disability. As a result, there would likely be a decrease in the number of hunting and fishing licenses and permits sold by the Division of Wildlife and a corresponding loss of license and permit revenue

deposited into the Wildlife Fund (Fund 7015). Additionally, there would likely be some decrease in the amount of federal grant revenue the Division of Wildlife receives that is in part tied to the number of hunting and fishing licenses sold.

Hunting and fishing on grandparent-owned property

Under current law, grandchildren under 18 years of age may hunt on land owned by their resident grandparents without first obtaining a hunting license. However, grandchildren of resident landowners must obtain any other license or permit as required for the game species they are hunting. Under current law, fishing licenses are required by anyone over the age of 16 when fishing on property owned by their resident grandparents. The bill allows grandchildren of any age to hunt or fish on property owned by their grandparents without first obtaining any of the generally required licenses or permits. The bill also authorizes grandchildren of certain other types of landowners to hunt and fish without permits or licenses. These include certain non-Ohio resident landowners, individual resident members or partners of certain landowning limited liability companies, and individual resident trustees of certain landowning trusts.

Some hunters and anglers may hunt and fish exclusively on property owned by their grandparents. As it applies to these individuals, the bill's expansion of hunting and fishing license and permit exemptions would result in a loss of license and permit revenue deposited to the credit of Fund 7015. However, some hunters and anglers may continue to purchase hunting and fishing licenses and permits because they hunt on other property where the exemption would not apply. Because we do not know the number of hunters and anglers the bill's exemption applies to or how many would continue to purchase licenses and permits, it is difficult to estimate the total revenue loss that may result.

The table below provides the per license and permit loss that would result for each license and permit purchase foregone by hunters and anglers that would qualify for the bill's exemption and who hunt and fish exclusively on land where the bill's exemption applies. Note that reduced-cost senior licenses and permits are not shown, as hunters and anglers eligible for these permits are not likely to be eligible for the bill's exemption. Similarly, youth licenses and permits are not shown as hunters eligible for youth licenses and permits are already exempt when hunting on land owned by their grandparents.

Hunting and Fishing License Fees		
License or Permit Type	Resident Fee	Nonresident Fee
Annual Hunting License	\$18.00	\$174.00
Tourist 3-Day Hunting License	N/A	\$39.00
Wetlands Habitat Stamp	\$14.00	\$14.00
Adult Either Sex Deer Permit	\$23.00	\$23.00
Antlerless Deer Permit	\$18.00	\$18.00
Wild Turkey Permit	\$23.00	\$28.00

Hunting and Fishing License Fees		
License or Permit Type	Resident Fee	Nonresident Fee
Adult Fur Taker Permit	\$15.00	\$15.00
Annual Fishing License	\$18.00	\$49.00
One-Day Fishing License	\$10.00	\$10.00
Three-Day Tourist Fishing License	N/A	\$18.00

It should be noted that H.B. 49 of the 132nd General Assembly, the main operating budget act for the FY 2018-FY 2019 biennium, provides for discounted nonresident licenses and permits in calendar years (CY) 2017, 2018, and 2019. Under H.B. 49, nonresident hunting licenses are \$124 in CY 2017, \$140.50 in CY 2018, and \$157 in CY 2019. Nonresident fishing licenses are \$39 in CY 2017, \$42.50 in CY 2018, and \$46 in CY 2019. H.B. 49 also increased fees for nonresident deer permits to \$74 beginning in CY 2020.

Free hunting and fishing licenses and permits for partially disabled veterans

Under current law, the Division of Wildlife issues free hunting and fishing licenses and permits to Ohio residents that are holders of a veteran's license plate displaying the international wheelchair symbol or who are permanently and totally disabled veterans who receive pension or compensation due to their service-connected injuries. The bill expands free hunting and fishing license and permit eligibility to include an Ohio resident who is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, including reserve components, or of the National Guard, if the veteran has both: (1) been discharged or released from active duty in the Armed Forces under honorable conditions and (2) received a schedule rating of 50% or more for compensation based on individual unemployability for a service-connected disability or combination of service-connected disabilities as prescribed in federal law. Under the bill, more disabled veterans would likely receive free hunting and fishing licenses and permits. As a result, there would be a loss of revenue deposited to Fund 7015. Any lost revenue would depend on the number of free licenses and permits issued by the Division. According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 49,000 veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 50% or greater reside in Ohio.

Impact on federal grants

Aside from a potential drop in license and permit fees deposited into Fund 7015, the expanded exemptions and free licenses and permits in the bill could also affect the amount of grant money received by the state under two federal laws. These federal laws are the (1) Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 (Pittman-Robertson Act), and (2) Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950 (Dingell-Johnson Act). Under these grants, a portion of the funding is provided based on the number of paid hunting and fishing licenses issued. To be considered paid licenses, the state must receive revenue that exceeds the cost of producing the license by at least one dollar. The bill's license and permit exemptions and free licenses and permits could reduce the total number of

paid hunting and fishing licenses issued by the state, thus resulting in a loss in the amount awarded to Ohio under these federal grants.

The Pittman-Robertson Act provides formula grant funding to state wildlife agencies. Wildlife restoration grant awards are determined by a formula that provides 50% of the funding based on the land area of the state, and 50% by the number of paid hunting licenses issued. Pittman-Robertson funding totaled nearly \$14.0 million in FY 2016. Similarly, under the Dingell-Johnson Act, 60% of the funding is based on the number of paid fishing licenses issued, while 40% is based on the land area of the state. During FY 2016, Dingell-Johnson funding totaled approximately \$7.0 million.