

FISCAL NOTE
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)				
	FY 2015-16		FY 2016-17	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS				
CASH FUNDS		\$0 to (53,000)		\$0 to (53,000)
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS		\$0 to (53,000)		\$0 to (53,000)

Any Fiscal Notes received from state agencies and political subdivisions are attached following the Legislative Fiscal Analyst Estimate.

LB 127 would repeal the statutory authorization for the Game and Parks Commission to hold a mountain lion hunting season and also eliminates the limited permit currently allowed to be issued to farmers and ranchers to kill mountain lions preying on livestock or poultry.

The first and only hunting season for mountain lions was initiated in 2014. The Commission has indicated that revenue received from the \$25 application fee and the permit auction proceeds totaled \$53,445 in 2014. This revenue is deposited into the Game Fund.

Based on this limited experience, due to 2014 being the first season, there is a potential annual revenue loss of \$53,000 due to the elimination of the authority to hold a mountain lion hunting season. Whether or not a hunting season is implemented each year is up to the Commission based on their opinion on whether the mountain lion population is large enough to allow hunting. Since it is not a given that a season will be held each year, the revenue loss is estimated to range from \$0 in those years when no season would have been established to \$53,000 in those years when there would have been a season.

With the elimination of the hunting season and the limited permit the Commission anticipates an increase in requests for them to address mountain lion related issues. Any related increase in workload can be absorbed by the Commission's current staffing and budget.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES-STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSES			
LB: 127	AM:	AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Nebraska Game & Parks Commission	
REVIEWED BY: Cindy Miserez		DATE: 01/16/2015	PHONE: 402-471-4
COMMENTS: I concur with the Nebraska Game & Parks' statement of fiscal impact for LB 127.			

Please complete ALL (5) blanks in the first three lines.

2015

LB⁽¹⁾ 127

FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: ⁽²⁾

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Prepared by: ⁽³⁾ Patrick H. Cole

Date Prepared: ⁽⁴⁾ 1/12/15

Phone: ⁽⁵⁾ (402) 471-5523

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	<u>FY 2015-16</u>		<u>FY 2016-17</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
CASH FUNDS	_____	See below	_____	See below
FEDERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
OTHER FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL FUNDS	=====	=====	=====	=====

Explanation of Estimate:

The proposed legislation would eliminate provisions related to hunting mountain lions.

Regulated hunting seasons are among the tools the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission uses to manage game species in Nebraska. A mountain lion season was authorized in 2014 involving two different hunting units (Pine Ridge and Prairie). A total of \$53,445 in application/license fees and auction proceeds had been raised under the current 2014 Mountain Lion hunting season.

No season has been currently set for 2015. Future seasons, if established, will be based on year-specific management objectives and thus could vary from the 2014 season. Passage of this legislation could result in a loss of approximately \$54,000 annually in those years that might have a season, provided similar harvest quota's and units were established.

An increase in costs would be anticipated related to an expected increase in response needs associated with mountain lion issues with the elimination of the management tools currently available (i.e. hunting regulations). Additionally, since the Commission's management responsibilities for mountain lions would remain, costs for monitoring population levels would continue, albeit at the expense of other game fund revenue sources. Costs are not readily determinable and would likely merely result in a reprioritization of other duties.

BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

Personal Services:

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>
	<u>15-16</u>	<u>16-17</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Benefits.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Travel.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital outlay.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Aid.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital improvements.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL.....	_____	_____	_____	_____