

FISCAL NOTE
 LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES *				
	FY 2008-09		FY 2009-10	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS	13,298,000		13,272,000	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	13,298,000		13,272,000	

*Does not include any impact on political subdivisions. See narrative for political subdivision estimates.

LB 1164 would adopt the Wildlife Damage Act. In general, the new program would pay landowners for crop damage caused by deer, geese, turkey and elk, and also pay landowners for the cost of wildlife damage abatement measures taken to prevent crop damage. The programs are administered by the Game and Parks Commission and counties that choose to become participants.

The Game and Parks Commission, in their attached fiscal note, estimates that about **10%** of the **47,600** farms and ranches in the state will make a claim for crop damage, and that the average claim amount will be **\$2,500** (the bill places a \$15,000 limit per claim). Based on these assumptions the total annual cost for crop damage will be **\$11,857,500**, payable by the Commission.

In regards to the cost of reimbursing landowners for abatement measures, the Commission again estimates the number of claims to be **4,743** (10% of all farms/ranches), and the average cost per claim to be **\$141**, for a total annual abatement cost of approximately **\$672,000**. This cost is shared 25/75 between the participating county and the Commission. Therefore the cost for all participating counties would be **\$168,000** and the Commission's cost would be **\$504,000**.

The bill spells out administrative duties for both the participating county and the Commission and requires the Commission to reimburse the county for their administration costs. The Commission estimates their administrative costs to be **\$104,165** in FY08-09 and **\$78,465** in FY09-10. This includes one full-time position as well as operating/travel expenses and one-time equipment purchases. County administrative expenses are estimated to be **\$832,705** (see the Commission's fiscal note for details).

In summary, the estimated state costs payable by the Game and Parks Commission from General Funds are **\$13,298,000** in FY08-09 and **\$13,272,000** in FY09-10 and include; one new position for administration; reimbursement of county administrative costs; crop damage payments; and 75% of the cost of abatement measures.

The costs to participating counties for 25% of abatement measures are estimated to be **\$168,000** annually.

The actual costs of LB 1164 will depend on the level of participation among counties and the number of claims filed. The estimates provided by the Commission appear reasonable but may need to be revised once the program is implemented and actual participation and claims are known. It should be noted that section 6 (5b) gives instruction on the priority of payments should the appropriation be insufficient to cover all claims.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

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COMMENTS					
GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION – No basis to disagree with potential need for operational needs. However, Section 6(5)(b) specifies that aid payments are based on the appropriation made to the program and prorated if the amounts exceed the appropriation. Funding levels would be a policy decision to be discussed in an appropriations bill.					