

FISCAL NOTE

HB 2856 - SB 2914

March 5, 2008

SUMMARY OF BILL: Transfers the duties and funding of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) to the Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) by the creation of the Division of Wildlife Resources within TDEC.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$500,000/One-Time

Other Fiscal Impact – According to TWRA, the federal government prohibits the shifting of wildlife funds into co-mingled accounts. Such prohibition is found in both the “Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act” and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act.” The provisions of the bill require the deposit of all license fees into the General Fund. Such a shift may result in the loss of approximately \$16,717,100 in federal funds to the state and income to the state of approximately \$1,216,400 from interest earned on the federal funds.

Assumptions:

- Section 10 of the bill requires the Division of Wildlife Resources to exhaust the existing stock of office products with the former departmental designation prior to ordering new office products with the new division name. However, it is assumed that all uniforms of personnel, approximately 300 boats, approximately 400 vehicles and all fixed signage bearing the TWRA logo will all be required to carry the new division name. The cost to make such changes is estimated to exceed \$500,000.
- TDEC assumes that if all of the funds from TWRA are transferred to TDEC that there will be no significant change in state revenue or expenditures associated with the provisions of the bill.

- The provisions of the bill do not address the boating division of TWRA. Such regulations are found in Tenn. Code Annotated Title 69. This division has a budget of approximately \$9,560,000. According to TWRA, this division will be inoperable according to this bill as written.
- Section seven of the bill transfers the duties, responsibilities and functions of the State Board of Education to the Department of Education. This is outside the scope of the caption of the bill. Therefore, the fiscal impact from this section has not been included in this fiscal note.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

/cce