

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 2168 - SB 2218

February 12, 2016

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Declares that it is not an offense, under the Tennessee Nongame and Endangered or Threatened Wildlife Species Conservation Act, to disturb the habitat of, alter, take, attempt to take, possess, transport, export, process, sell or offer for sale, or ship a cormorant in this state, also known as the Phalacrocoracidae. Prohibits the use of state funds, personnel, or other state resources to be used for enforcing any prohibition against the specified types of disturbances to the cormorant. Declares that a state agency is not prohibited from using state funds or personnel, or other resources, to assist landowners in acquiring federal depredation permits for cormorants.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Other Fiscal Impact – To the extent an agency elects to use state funds, personnel, or other state resources, for the purpose of assisting landowners in acquiring federal depredation permits for cormorants, there will be an increase in state expenditures of an unknown amount. If no state agency provides any such assistance, the fiscal impact for this bill is considered not significant.**

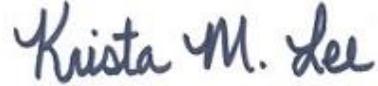
Assumptions:

- Cormorants are protected under federal law and TWRA personnel are federally commissioned.
- TWRA does not receive any federal funding for the purpose of protecting the cormorants species.
- Based on the information provided by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, agency personnel would be prohibited from participating in any federal enforcement or investigation; federal offenses would prevail and be enforced by federal agents.
- Few resources, if any, of the TWRA have been dedicated towards the enforcement of federal law that protects the cormorant species.
- According to TWRA, the agency has not issued any citations over the last ten years for any type of disturbance to cormorant.
- Few local government resources, if any, have been dedicated towards the enforcement of federal law that protects the black vulture species.
- There could be additional state expenditures if a state agency elects to utilize state funds, personnel, or other state resources to assist landowners in acquiring federal depredation

permits for cormorants. Any such impact is unknown and dependent upon the election decision made by the state entity and the extent of such state funds, personnel, and other state resources that the agency will elect to utilize.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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