

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 318 - SB 439

February 19, 2019

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Authorizes the Executive Director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) to issue various types of special hunting permits, rather than just elk-take permits, to nonprofit wildlife conservation organizations.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Revenue – Exceeds \$200,000/Wildlife Resources Fund

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (004412): Deletes and replaces language of the original bill such that the only substantive changes are to establish that the number of special permits is limited to five per year and that the Executive Director of TWRA must strive to ensure that hunting or fishing opportunities occur in each grand division of the state, pursuant to the proposed legislation.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

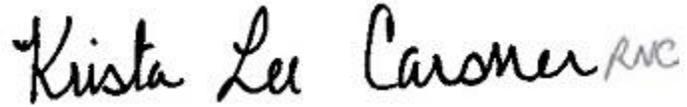
- Tennessee Code Annotated § 70-2-219(e) currently authorizes the Executive Director of TWRA to issue one special elk-take permit each license year to a nonprofit wildlife conservation organization.
- The organization that receives such permit is authorized to sell or otherwise transfer the permit. Any proceeds from the sale are to be used for the elk program on projects approved by TWRA; provided the organization may retain up to 20 percent of the proceeds for administrative costs.
- In 2018, TWRA issued a special elk-take permit to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation. The Foundation raffled the special permit, raising almost \$225,000. TWRA received approximately \$200,000 while the Foundation retained approximately \$25,000.
- The proposed legislation will allow TWRA to issue up to five special permits to a nonprofit wildlife conservation organization.

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- Assuming at least one additional special permit will be issued as a result of this legislation, the recurring increase in state revenue to the Wildlife Resources Fund is estimated to exceed \$200,000 (\$200,000 per permit x minimum of 1 permit).

CERTIFICATION:

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

Handwritten signature of Krista Lee Carsner in cursive script.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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