

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6424

As of February 15, 2008

Title: An act relating to small game hunting license fees.

Brief Description: Regarding small game hunting license fees for resident seniors.

Sponsors: Senators Franklin, Jacobsen, Rasmussen, Hobbs, Weinstein, Marr, Shin, Kilmer, Fairley, Hargrove, Sheldon, Hatfield and McAuliffe.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation: 1/28/08.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, OCEAN & RECREATION

Staff: Karen Epps (786-7424)

Background: The Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) is charged with the management of the state's wildlife resources, including classifying wildlife, regulating the taking of wildlife, regulating the equipment and methods used to take wildlife, and establishing game reserves and areas closed to hunting. A recreational license issued by DFW is required to hunt for classified wildlife in Washington.

A personal use saltwater, freshwater, or combination fishing license is required of all persons except residents under the age of 15 years. Seniors may obtain a personal use saltwater license and a personal use freshwater fishing license at a reduced rate. Additionally, seniors may obtain a personal use shellfish and seaweed license at a reduced rate. Senior is defined as a person 70 years of age or older.

Summary of Bill: Seniors may obtain a small game hunting license at the same reduced rate as youth licenses. Thus, the fee to hunt small game would be \$15, the fee to hunt small game would be \$8 when also purchasing a big game license, and the fee for a three consecutive day license would be \$50 for seniors. Additionally, the fee for turkey tags for seniors would be reduced to \$9.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 17, 2008.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: Reduced license fees will help seniors. Reducing hunting fees for seniors will help to retain senior hunters.

OTHER: This bill will have an impact to monies in the state Wildlife Account. Seniors would prefer to have reduced license fees for big game, such as deer and elk.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Franklin, prime sponsor.

OTHER: Steve Pozzanghera, Department of Fish and Wildlife; Gary DeLuppe, citizen.