

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 6072

C 148 L 20
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Dividing the state wildlife account into the fish, wildlife, and conservation account and the limited fish and wildlife account.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Rolfes, Braun and Becker; by request of Department of Fish and Wildlife).

Senate Committee on Ways & Means
House Committee on Appropriations

Background: State Wildlife Account. The Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) have several accounts supporting their operating budget, of which the State Wildlife Account supports approximately 21 percent of its total budget. There are 26 subaccounts used for receiving revenue from specific license sales and, by statute, can only be used for specific purposes. There are funds that come from more general revenue sources, like recreational fishing and hunting licenses, that have less specific statute requirements, thereby allowing greater discretion by DFW for how the money can be used.

2017-19 Budget and Performance Assessment. In the 2017-19 biennial operating budget, the Legislature directed DFW to conduct a budget and performance assessment. The assessment found the current State Wildlife Account receives revenue from sources that are both restricted and non-restricted. The one account does not differentiate the distinction.

Summary: Changes are made to the way revenue sources are accounted that support the operating budget of DFW. The State Wildlife Account is eliminated and is replaced by two new accounts. The Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Account is used to receive revenue that by statute, is more discretionary in nature. The Limited Fish and Wildlife Account is used to receive revenue that by statute, limits how DFW uses the funds.

Fee rates or amounts of revenue are not changed.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	46	0
House	97	0

Effective: July 1, 2021

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