



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**HB16-1220**

**FISCAL NOTE**

**FISCAL IMPACT:**  State  Local  Statutory Public Entity  Conditional  No Fiscal Impact

**Drafting Number:** LLS 16-0870

**Date:** February 19, 2016

**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Willett; Vigil

**Bill Status:** House SVMA

**Fiscal Analyst:** Clare Pramuk (303-866-2677)

**BILL TOPIC:** BLACK BEAR HUNTING AUGUST

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
<b>State Revenue</b>		
Cash Funds		Possible reduction.
<b>State Expenditures</b>	Possible workload reduction. See State Expenditures section.	
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> None.		
<b>Future Year Impacts:</b> Possible ongoing revenue reductions.		

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill changes the legal starting date to hunt black bears from September 2 to August 2 of each calendar year, if the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Commission authorizes the earlier date in rule.

**Background**

Under current CPW regulations, the black bear season runs from September 2 to mid-November. The CPW's current annual harvest objective for black bears is 1,400 bears statewide and CPW makes 25,742 licenses available. The CPW sells approximately 17,800 licenses annually (87% resident and 13% non-resident), resulting in about \$1,400,000 in revenue. Hunters achieve an approximately 9 percent success rate under the current bear hunting regulations. For the 2015 season, 7,908 licenses were not purchased.

**State Revenue**

**Assumptions.** The following assumptions are used in this fiscal note.

- The black bear harvest success rate will increase because in August bears are engaged in pre-den hyper-feeding behavior and therefore more vulnerable; and
- CPW's annual harvest target will remain at 1,400.

This bill may result in a reduction in revenue to the Wildlife Cash Fund beginning in FY 2017-18. The CPW monitors the number of black bears taken during hunting season and are expected to adjust the number of licenses that will be offered based on the new harvest success rates produced as a result of this bill. This can be accomplished by issuing fewer licenses per hunt or by limiting hunting between August 2 and September 2. By whatever means the number of licenses are reduced, the result will be a reduction in license revenue to the Wildlife Cash Fund. The amount cannot be determined until the bill has been implemented and data are collected on harvest success rates, so a reduction in revenue is not anticipated until FY 2017-18.

## **Expenditures**

An increase in the number of black bears harvested annually may reduce the CPW workload associated with bear-human interactions. This workload includes relocating nuisance bears, euthanizing aggressive bears, and implementing aversive conditioning techniques. This is not expected to require a reduction in appropriations.

## **Effective Date**

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

Information Technology      Natural Resources

## **Research Note Available**

An LCS Research Note for HB16-1220 is available online and through the iLegislate app. Research notes provide additional policy and background information about the bill and summarize action taken by the General Assembly concerning the bill.