



**Legislative Council Staff**

*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

**Fiscal Note**

|                         |  |                        |   |
|-------------------------|--|------------------------|---|
| <b>Drafting Number:</b> | LLS 24-0884                                    | <b>Date:</b>           | March 1, 2024                                       |
| <b>Prime Sponsors:</b>  | Sen. Pelton R.; Marchman<br>Rep. Lukens; Soper | <b>Bill Status:</b>    | Senate Ag., & Nat. Resources                        |
|                         |  | <b>Fiscal Analyst:</b> | Alexa Kelly   303-866-3469<br>alexa.kelly@coleg.gov |

**Bill Topic:**           **PARKS & WILDLIFE LICENSES & PASSES**

|                                  |   |   |  |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| <b>Summary of Fiscal Impact:</b> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Revenue     | <input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government        |
|                                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure | <input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund   | <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity |

The bill makes a variety of changes to certain fees, requirements, and procedures related to licenses and passes issued by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. It decreases state revenue on an annual basis.

**Appropriation Summary:**       No appropriation is required.

**Fiscal Note Status:**           The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

**Table 1**  
**State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 24-161**

|                             |            | <b>Budget Year<br/>FY 2024-25</b> | <b>Out Year<br/>FY 2025-26</b> |
|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>              | Cash Funds | (\$155,322)                       | (\$149,782)                    |
| <b>Expenditures</b>         |            | -                                 | -                              |
| <b>Transfers</b>            |            | -                                 | -                              |
| <b>Other Budget Impacts</b> |            | -                                 | -                              |

## Summary of Legislation

The bill makes a variety of changes to certain fees, requirements, and procedures related to licenses and passes issued by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). Specifically, the bill:

- lowers the age threshold for senior annual fishing licenses from 65 to 64 years of age;
- lowers the cost of youth big game and youth small game resident and nonresident hunting licenses by \$0.25;
- amends the definition of “low-income senior” used for granting discounted licenses;
- lowers the disability level threshold used for granting discounted licenses to veterans with disabilities from 60 percent to 50 percent;
- creates the ability for CPW to establish a harvest permit surcharge of up to \$5;
- allows revenue from the Keep Colorado Wild pass sales to be used for capital construction costs; and
- establishes a specific process for the purpose of conducting CPW hearings when a river outfitter license holder or applicant is alleged to have committed a violation and allows a hearing officer to conduct said hearings on behalf of CPW.

## State Revenue

On net, the bill is estimated to reduce revenue for CPW in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by approximately \$150,000 annually in the Wildlife Cash Fund beginning in FY 2024-25. This cash fund is annually appropriated, and the decrease in funds will not affect the department’s ability to expend its full annual appropriation. As CPW is an enterprise, this revenue is not subject to TABOR.

**Senior annual fishing licenses.** By reducing the senior annual fishing license age cutoff from 65 to 64 years, it is expected that more individuals will purchase the senior annual fishing license, which is priced at a lower cost (currently \$11.47) than the regular resident fishing license (currently \$41.83). This is expected to affect approximately 5,000 license holders per year based on current demographic data.

**Service-connected disability passes.** The disability level threshold decrease for discounted licenses for veterans is not expected to substantially change revenue to the department. The CPW may see a minimal decrease in revenue from more individuals obtaining a discounted pass based on their disability status.

**Youth hunting licenses.** Modifying the rate for youth big game and small game hunting licenses is not expected to create any change in revenue for CPW. This is a technical change to reflect the search and rescue fee that is charged separately.

**Harvest permit surcharge.** If CPW creates a harvest permit surcharge as is authorized in the bill, this will increase revenue to the department. This is dependent on whether or not CPW institutes a fee and what the fee is. The exact revenue impact from this change has not been estimated.

## **State Expenditures**

The DNR will experience a minimal increase in expenditures and workload under the bill beginning in FY 2024-25 to incorporate the changes outlined in the bill. The Department of Law may also see a minimal increase in workload and expenditures to assist DNR in the rulemaking process, if necessary.

## **Effective Date**

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

Natural Resources  
Personnel

Information Technology

Law

---

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).