



Initiative 91

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Impact Statement

Date: February 13, 2024

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LCS TITLE: PROHIBIT TROPHY HUNTING

		Budget Year FY 2024-25	Out Year FY 2025-26
Revenue	Cash Funds	(\$377,468)	(\$377,468)
Expenditures	Cash Funds	(\$38,750)	(\$77,500)

Disclaimer. This initial fiscal impact statement has been prepared for an initiative approved for petition circulation by the Secretary of State. If the initiative is placed on the ballot, Legislative Council Staff may revise this estimate for the ballot information booklet (Blue Book) if new information becomes available.

Summary of Measure

Initiative #91 prohibits the intentional killing, wounding, pursuing, or entrapping of a mountain lion, bobcat, or lynx, with certain exceptions. It also prohibits the intentional discharging or releasing of any deadly weapon at a mountain lion, bobcat, or lynx. Any violation of these provisions is classified as a class 1 misdemeanor and may result in the suspension of hunting privileges.

State Revenue

The initiative will decrease revenue to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) by about \$377,000 annually from the reduction in mountain lion hunting license sales. For the 2024-25 hunting season, the cost of a mountain lion hunting license is \$60 for a resident license and \$500 for a nonresident license. In FY 2022-23, about 2,600 mountain lion licenses were sold. Eliminating this license is estimated to reduce revenue by about \$377,000 to CPW on an ongoing basis. Criminal fines and fees may increase if additional persons are convicted of the new misdemeanor offense under the measure.

State Expenditures

The initiative will decrease state expenditures in CPW expenditures will decrease by approximately \$39,000 in FY 2024-25, and by \$77,500 in FY 2025-26 and in future years. This is the result of a decrease in game damage claims paid to livestock owners when livestock is damaged by a mountain lion.

In addition, state expenditures will minimally increase in the Department of Law to provide general counsel to CPW as needed. The Judicial Department, including the trial courts, Division of Probation, and agencies that provide representation to indigent persons, may also have a minimal increase in expenditures related to the new class 1 misdemeanor created by the initiative.

Local Government

Similar to the state, it is expected that any workload or cost increases for district attorneys to prosecute additional misdemeanor offenses, or for county jails to imprison more individuals under the bill will be minimal. District attorney offices and county jails are funded by counties. The bill may also increase revenue, workload, and costs for the Denver County Court, which is managed and funded by the City and County of Denver, to try misdemeanor cases under the bill.

Effective Date

If approved by voters at the 2024 general election, this measure takes effect upon proclamation of the Governor, no later than 30 days after the official canvass of the vote is completed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Agriculture
Natural Resources

Judicial

Law