

Statement of Estimated State Revenue Impact

Date: February 21, 2014

Bill Number: S.B. 913

Authors: Campsen

Committee Requesting Impact: Senate Committee on Fish, Game and Forestry

Bill Summary

A Bill to amend Chapter 9, Title 50 of the 1976 Code, relating to hunting and fishing licenses, by adding Section 50-9-675 to provide for a permit to engage in falconry in this state, the fee for the permit, and that a person holding a valid federal falconry permit on January 1, 2014, may engage in falconry without a South Carolina Falconer's permit until the federal permit expires; and to amend Chapter 11, Title 11, Title 50, relating to protection of game, by adding Section 50-11-50 to provide for the regulation of falconry and to provide a penalty for violations.

REVENUE IMPACT ^{1/}

We expect this bill will increase funds of the Falconry Permitting Program of the Fish and Wildlife Protection Fund by \$800 in FY 2014-15. We expect no impact on local revenues.

Explanation

This bill would add Section 50-9-675, which would require a person engaging in falconry to obtain a State falconry permit. The fee for the permit is \$100 and the permit expires three years from the date of issuance. Pursuant to this proposed bill, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, in concurrence with the states, issued falconry permits at the same fee. Based on information provided by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), there are currently 38 active falconry permits in the State. Of this number, 14 permits were issued in FY 2013 and 8 were issued in FY 2012. Assuming the 8 permits issued in FY 2012 will renew in FY 2014-15, and taking into account the \$100 permit fee, we expect funds of the Falconry Permitting Program of the Fish and Wildlife Protection Fund to increase by \$800 in FY 2014-15. We expect no impact on local revenues.

Additionally, this bill proposes to add Section 50-11-600 which outlines the penalties associated with violating the regulations of falconry. Any person convicted of this offense would be guilty of a misdemeanor and must be fined not less than fifty dollars nor more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned up to thirty days, or both. Based on information provided by SCDNR, there were no violations associated with falconry in FY 2013. Therefore, we expect no additional revenue from convictions.

This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.



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^{1/} This statement meets the requirement of Section 2-7-71 for a state revenue impact by the BEA.