



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE
Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

April 22, 2022

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S.281 An act relating to hunting coyotes with dogs

As proposed by the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife

URL for bill:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/WorkGroups/House%20Ways%20and%20Means/Bills/S.281/S.281~Michael%20O'Grady~As%20Recommended%20by%20the%20House%20Committee%20on%20Natural%20Resources,%20Fish%20and%20Wildlife~4-22-2022.pdf>

Bill Summary

The bill proposes to regulate the hunting of coyotes with dogs through the creation of a new permit requirement and a limit of 100 annual permits. Permit fees would be set at \$50 for state residents and \$200 for nonresidents. Nonresidents would also be charged a \$10 application fee. The bill would also require individuals to seek permission from property owners before releasing dogs onto the property for the purpose of hunting coyotes. The Department of Fish and Wildlife would be responsible for implementation and administration.

The bill would require the Fish and Wildlife Board to draft rules to implement the provisions of this bill. A moratorium of hunting coyotes with dogs would be enacted starting July 1, 2022 and ending when the new rules are issued by the Board.

The permit requirement and landowner permission requirement would go into effect when the Board rules are issued.

Fiscal Impacts

Permit fee revenues could be up to \$6,500 per year to the Fish and Wildlife Fund. Some of these revenues could materialize in FY 2023, but more likely they would start in FY 2024. Application fee revenues would likely be negligible.

The Department of Fish & Wildlife would need to allocate staff time for rulemaking and administration. Costs are unknown at this time.

Background and details

Permits and fees

The bill proposes to establish a new permit for hunting coyotes with the aid of dogs. This new permit would go into effect after new rules are issued for this activity by the Department. Permit fees would be set at \$50 for residents and \$200 for nonresidents. Nonresidents would also be required to pay a \$10 application fee. The bill proposes that the number of permits issued to nonresidents be limited to ten percent of the permits issued to residents in the preceding year and total permits be limited to 100 per year. Under this construct, the maximum number of permits that could go to nonresidents in a given year would be 10 with the rest available for residents. If all 100 available permits were issued in a given year, the total permit fee revenues would be \$6,500. Application fee revenues would be dependent on demand for permits from nonresidents but would likely be a very small sum.

Administrative costs

The Department would incur costs in the form of staff time to write rules to implement the permitting and regulations relating to coyote hunting with dogs. At the time of the release of this fiscal note, JFO has not received a statement from the Department as to whether these new responsibilities could be accomplished with existing staff and resources.