

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 80TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 12, 2007

TO: Honorable Harvey Hilderbran, Chair, House Committee on Culture, Recreation, & Tourism

FROM: John S. O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB1309 by Hilderbran (Relating to the possession or transportation of certain snakes that are not indigenous to this country; providing a penalty.), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds for HB1309, Committee Report 1st House, Substituted: an impact of \$0 through the biennium ending August 31, 2009.

The bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill.

General Revenue-Related Funds, Five-Year Impact:

Fiscal Year	Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds
2008	\$0
2009	\$0
2010	\$0
2011	\$0
2012	\$0

All Funds, Five-Year Impact:

Fiscal Year	Probable Revenue Gain/(Loss) from GAME, FISH, WATER SAFETY AC 9
2008	\$126,250
2009	\$126,250
2010	\$126,250
2011	\$126,250
2012	\$126,250

The bill would amend the Parks and Wildlife Code to require a permit for the possession or transport of live, non-indigenous venomous snakes or constrictors in Texas. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) would be required to establish separate permits for recreational and commercial purposes, and to issue the permits no later than April 1, 2008. The bill would direct the House Committee on Culture, Recreation and Tourism to conduct an interim study to determine whether Texas should permit the possession of nonindigenous constrictors and venomous snakes, with study findings available November 1, 2008. The bill would take effect September 1, 2007.

Fiscal Analysis

TPWD reports the bill would result in an anticipated revenue gain to the Game, Fish and Water Safety Account No. 9 of \$126,250 in each year.

Methodology

TPWD currently has no regulatory authority concerning non-indigenous venomous snakes and constrictors, and as such, does not maintain statistics regarding the possible number of owners of such snakes. However, based on information received from businesses that sell snakes and constrictors, TPWD estimates that at a minimum, there are roughly 5,000 owners of venomous snakes/constrictors in Texas. Assuming that the permit fees, both recreational and commercial, will be established at \$25 and \$50 respectively, the new permits will generate a total of \$126,250 per year (4,950 individual permittees x \$25 = \$123,750 and 50 commercial permittees x \$50 = \$2,500). According to TPWD, the department would incur additional costs associated with establishing the new permitting program and processing permit applications. However, to the extent TPWD would incur additional costs, the fiscal implication to the department is not anticipated to be significant.

Local Government Impact

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts, 802 Parks and Wildlife Department

LBB Staff: JOB, WK, ZS, TB