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LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 81ST LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 9, 2009

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TO: Honorable Mark Homer, Chair, House Committee on Culture, Recreation & Tourism

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

IN RE: **HB1965** by Darby (relating to permits to control protecting wildlife; providing a penalty.), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Parks and Wildlife Code to issue permits to individuals who desire to kill protected wildlife that may be causing serious damage to commercial agricultural, horticultural, or aquiculture interests, or is a threat to public safety. The bill would exclude the county judge or mayor from the permitting process, and would add a permit application fee of $50 or an amount set by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission.

TPWD estimates that there will be approximately 750 additional permits issued annually. At $50 per permit, this represents additional revenue to the General Revenue-Dedicated Game, Fish and Water Safety Account No. 9 of $37,500 in fiscal year 2010 and each year thereafter (750 x $50). TPWD estimates the additional workload of processing the permits will require the equivalent of an additional Fish and Wildlife Technician at Austin headquarters (at an estimated salary of $31,053 in fiscal years 2010 and 2011 and $36,111 in fiscal year 2012 and each year thereafter and other minimal operating expenses and one-time equipment expenses in fiscal year 2010. Based on the LBB's analysis of the TPWD, duties and responsibilities associated with implementing the provisions of the bill could be accomplished by utilizing existing resources. The bill would take immediate effect if the bill receives two-thirds the vote of all members. Otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2009.

Local Government Impact

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 802 Parks and Wildlife Department
LBB Staff: JOB, SZ, TB, WK