HUNTING/LICENSES

Enact legislation authorizing the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to waive license fees for not-for-profit organizations involved in charitable hunting and fishing activities and to certify such organizations.

Enact legislation authorizing the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to certify not-for-profit "organizations involved in charitable hunting and fishing activities." These certified organizations shall be exempt from the requirement of a hunting or fishing license while engaged in activities sponsored by that organization.

Effective August 1, 2020.

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental expenditures as a result of this measure.

The Secretary of LDWF currently, under his general authority, waives the requirement of a recreational hunting and fishing license for events sponsored by not-for-project organizations such as Wounded Warriors and Wounded War Heroes. Currently, each request is reviewed and evaluated on a case by case basis to determine if an exemption will be issued. The proposed law would codify existing practice of the Secretary and eliminate the work involved in reviewing applications on a case by case basis. There will be no material effect on the expenditures of LDWF but rather will simply allow for a reallocation of resources.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There may be a decrease in revenues of LDWF; however, at time time, the amount is indeterminable.

The proposed law exempts not-for-profit organizations from the requirement of a recreational hunting and fishing license. Fees for recreational hunting and fishing licenses are deposited into statutorily dedicated funds such as the Conservation Fund and the Wildlife Habitat Natural Heritage Trust Fund. The impact on revenue in the statutorily dedicated funds is indeterminant as LDWF does not know how many not-for-profit organizations will take advantage of the exemption or the number of individuals participating in sponsored events. Potentially, there could be no impact on revenues to LDWF if those not-for-profit organizations are the same that currently receive the exemption at the discretion of the Secretary.