

FISCAL NOTE

This bill allows the Game and Fish Commission (Commission) to set daily limits on the number of commercially guided fishing boats allowed to launch into any section of river. If the Commission sets daily launch limits, it must assess an annual fee for registration of commercially guided fishing boats and vehicles or trailers operated by the commercial fishing guide. The Game and Fish Department (Department) provided the estimated revenue increase to, and expenditure increase from, the Game and Fish Fund assuming the Commission would set daily launch limits of commercially guided fishing boats.

Source of revenue increase:

The estimated revenue increase, in the form of annual fees issued for commercially guided fishing boat, vehicle, and trailer registrations to the Game and Fish Fund is indeterminable.

Assumptions:

The Commission will set daily launch limits and establish registration and permit fees to implement the bill. However, the fees have not been determined by the Commission and the number of commercial fishing boats, vehicles, and trailers is unknown.

	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
NON-ADMINISTRATIVE IMPACT			
Anticipated Expenditure increase			
GAME & FISH FUND	\$431,800	\$215,750	\$215,750

Source of expenditure increase:

Additional personnel will be required for administration and enforcement of this program. Each major drainage area over which the Commission has jurisdiction shall be surveyed annually to determine the percent of commercially guided fishing boats to the total number of watercraft per stretch of river. Personnel will set-up data-gathering camera equipment on multiple stretches of river within the major drainage areas to review, analyze, and document the data collected.

If the Commission determines that daily launch limits of commercially guided fishing boats warrant limitation, public meetings will be held in the major drainage area to gather public comment. Personnel will monitor the major drainage areas to enforce that commercially guided boats, vehicles, and trailers are registered, have a sticker, and have a valid boat launch permit.

Information technology programming time is required to develop new registration products and decal issuance functionality, as well as a new licensing application with a secondary customer table specific to commercial boat guides for the allocation of boat launch permits for impacted stretches of river within the major drainage areas.

Assumptions:

One additional full-time employee and four additional seasonal employees will be hired, and the supplies, equipment and vehicles required to carry out the ongoing tasks described above will be purchased. One Program Administrator (BAPM09), four four-month fisheries technicians (HSSL05), five computers, four cell phones, four drift boats, four trucks, data collection equipment and uniform allowances will be acquired. Personnel (0100 series) costs are estimated at \$176,561 per year. Support services (0200 series) costs for supplies and equipment, in-state travel, vehicle operating and maintenance, and data services are estimated at \$36,480 per year, plus an additional \$182,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2025 for data gathering cameras, three-quarter ton trucks, and drift boats. Central data services (0400 series) costs for four cell phones are estimated at \$2,208 per year, plus an additional \$6,750 in FY 2025 for computers. Contractual Services (0900 series) costs are estimated at \$500 per year for printing of stickers.

Programming to allocate launch permits will require the establishment of an online portal to allow for application of permits, with the ability to create a reusable user identification. The system must accept both a first-come, first-served allocation model and a pool of applicants for later draw model. The system will require functionality to report draw results to customers, the ability for customers to modify and/or withdraw from a random draw. Additionally, the system will require business rules to provide various limits for permits by impacted stretches of river. If permits are renewable without drawing, the system will need a mechanism to allow for this. The system will need the ability to generate public reports showing ownership of launch permits. Development of extensive reporting functionality as well as comprehensive testing prior to implementation will be necessary. Application development is estimated at 450 hours at about \$60.66 per hour for a total one-time cost of \$27,300 in FY 2025.

The expenditure increase reflected above could be considered an administrative cost. However, for simplicity and to follow consistent practice on legislation of this type, it is included on the fiscal note.