

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 58th Legislature

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| Bill No.: | SB 772 |
| Version: | Engrossed Senate |
| Request Number: | N/A |
| Author: | Rep. Newton |
| Date: | 4/7/2021 |
| Impact: | ODWC: Part of \$139,500 |

Research Analysis

SB772 authorizes the Department of Wildlife to issue permits to agricultural lessees, with written permission from the landowner, to control damage or nuisance caused by wildlife. With the permit, the lessee may control wildlife at night in order to protect marketable agricultural crops or other materials.

The measure allows landowners and lessees to control nuisance or damage by coyotes or feral swine without a permit, during the day or night, in order to protect marketable agricultural crops.

The measure increases the fines for “headlighting” and for hunting wildlife with the aid of any motor-driven land, air, or water conveyance. Any person convicted of a violation can lose their hunting and fishing license for a minimum of 6 months, and a maximum of 10 years.

Prepared By: Emily Wendler

Fiscal Analysis

SB 772 does several things including raising the fines for violations of the section of law from \$250.00 to \$2,500.00 on the first offense and from \$500.00 to \$5,000.00 on the second offense. According to officials at the Department of Wildlife Conservation, they anticipate an annual increase in revenue from the penalties of \$139,000. This is based off what fines were actually paid over the last 4 years. ODWC would not receive all of that increase though, as these fines are split with County Sheriffs at various amounts. Yet, as ODWC is a nonappropriated agency, there should be no fiscal impact to the State.

Prepared By: Mariah Searock

Other Considerations

None.