



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 267 of the 131st G.A.

Date: November 16, 2015

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Rep. Ruhl

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Establishes a deer sanctuary license, requires the Chief of the Division of Wildlife to issue wild animal permits for the rehabilitation of injured deer, and makes other changes

State Fiscal Highlights

- The Department of Agriculture (AGR) would incur new costs to establish and administer a deer sanctuary program. Any costs would be at least partially offset by deer sanctuary license fees. Under the bill, deer sanctuary fees would be deposited to the credit of the Deer Sanctuary Fund, created by the bill.
- The bill requires the Chief of the Division of Wildlife to issue a wild animal permit to a person who has applied for the permit in good faith for the purpose of rehabilitating injured deer. If the Chief issues additional wild animal permits, there could be a slight increase in revenues deposited to the Wildlife Fund (Fund 7015). The fee for a wild animal permit is \$25.
- The bill requires the Attorney General to provide training to law enforcement officers regarding procedures to humanely euthanize injured deer. It is unclear if the Attorney General could charge law enforcement agencies for any costs to provide training or if any costs would be absorbed by the Attorney General. In either case, any costs would likely be minimal at most.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill requires law enforcement officers who respond to injured deer calls to be trained by the Attorney General on procedures regarding humanely euthanizing injured deer. It is unclear if local law enforcement agencies would be responsible for the costs of this training or if the Attorney General would absorb those costs. In either case, training costs would likely be minimal at most.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Department of Agriculture – deer sanctuaries

The bill creates a deer sanctuary program that will be overseen by the Department of Agriculture (AGR). Under the bill, a person who wishes to engage in raising white-tailed deer that are not captive and not for sale or personal use can apply to AGR for a deer sanctuary license. AGR would be required to issue licenses to applicants so long as the applications conform to rules established by AGR and include proof that the applicant has established a veterinarian-client relationship with regard to the care of each deer that the applicant intends to raise. Additionally, the bill requires AGR to establish facility specifications, procedures and requirements governing the renewal of licenses, and to establish the manner in which a deer must be transported to a licensed deer sanctuary. Finally, the bill requires AGR to inspect all licensed deer sanctuaries. As a result, AGR will incur additional costs to carry out inspections and to adopt rules under the program. Additional personnel may be needed depending on the number of licensed sanctuaries. However, these costs will be offset partially if not fully by the revenue collected from the deer sanctuary license fee. Fees are deposited into the Deer Sanctuary Fund, which the bill creates.

Department of Natural Resources – wild animal permit for rehabilitation of deer

Under current law, the Chief of the Division of Wildlife within the Department of Natural Resources may issue wild animal permits to any person desiring to collect or possess wild animals that are protected by law or their nests or eggs for scientific study, school instruction, other educational uses, or rehabilitation. The bill specifically requires the Chief to issue a permit to a person who has, in good faith, applied for a wild animal permit for the specific reason of rehabilitating deer. As a result, there could be a slight increase in the number of wild animal permits issued by the Division. The current law fee for a wild animal permit is \$25. Wild animal permit fees are deposited to the credit of the Wildlife Fund (Fund 7015).

Ohio Police Officers Training Commission – procedures for euthanizing injured deer

The bill requires the Ohio Police Officers Training Commission (OPOTC) to establish requirements for the training of law enforcement officers regarding humane procedures for euthanizing injured deer. Under the bill, the Attorney General is required to adopt rules based on OPOTC's recommendations and provide training for law enforcement officers. It is unclear if the Attorney General could charge law enforcement agencies for the costs of this training or if the Attorney General would absorb those costs. In either case, it is unlikely that training costs would be more than minimal.