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ELIM. SMALL GAME LIC. FOR TURKEY HUNTERS

House Bill 4760 as introduced
First Analysis (5-15-89)

RECEIVED

JUN 05 1989

Sponsor: Rep. Ed Giese Mich. State Law Library
Committee: Tourism, Fisheries, & Wildlife

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

Under the Hunting and Fishing License Act, hunters are required to purchase a small game license before making application to receive a wild turkey hunting license. The cost for both the wild turkey hunting license and the small game license have recently increased, and some turkey hunters have expressed concern about the affordability of the two licenses. Legislation has been suggested that will allow the turkey hunters to enjoy the benefits of turkey hunting without having to purchase the two licenses at the same time.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would amend the Hunting and Fishing License Act to allow the taking of wild turkey with a valid wild turkey hunting license and to specify that a small game license would not be required to take wild turkey.

MCL 316.204 and 316.305

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

According to the Department of Natural Resources, the bill would have negligible fiscal implications for the state. (5-15-89)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

The prices of several hunting and fishing licenses have recently increased, and many hunters of modest means are concerned that they will not be able to afford certain hunting privileges. In particular, wild turkey hunters who must purchase a wild turkey hunting license as well as a small game license in order to enjoy the sport feel the financial pinch. According to surveys by the Department of Natural Resources, most wild turkey hunters will purchase small game licenses later in the hunting season if given the option to purchase the small game license separately from the wild turkey hunting license. The bill will help allow wild turkey hunters of modest means to continue to afford the sport by allowing them to purchase wild turkey hunting licenses in the early spring and small game licenses in the fall.

Against:

Several hunting and fishing privileges require the purchase of two or three licenses at once. For example, in order to hunt waterfowl, a waterfowl hunting stamp is required in addition to a small game license and a federal migratory bird hunting stamp, and in order to take salmon and trout a salmon and trout stamp must be purchased in addition to a regular fishing license. Wild turkey hunters should not be given a financial break while others must bear the increased costs for hunting and fishing privileges.

POSITIONS:

The Department of Natural Resources supports the bill. (5-15-89)

The Michigan Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation takes no position on the bill. (5-15-89)

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs takes no position on the bill. (5-15-89)

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