



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

Manufacturer's Bank Building, 12th Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone: 517/373-6466

NONRESIDENT TURKEY HUNTING LICENSE FEE

House Bill 5220 as introduced
First Analysis (11-13-89)

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DEC 19 1989

Sponsor: Rep. Ed Giese

Committee: Tourism, Fisheries & Wildlife

Mich. State Law Library

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

Before Public Act 76 was enacted this year, turkey hunters were required to purchase a small game license before applying for a wild turkey hunting permit. Apparently, the recent fee increases in both the small game license and turkey hunting permit made turkey hunting cost prohibitive for some persons who desired to take part in the activity. The new provision applies to both resident and nonresident turkey hunters, which means the act effectively lowered the fee for a nonresident turkey hunter over \$50. A nonresident turkey hunting license now costs about \$29 (\$25 without figuring in retailer costs), which is the lowest in the nation, and some feel nonresidents should have to pay more for this privilege.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would amend the hunting and fishing license act to increase from \$25 to \$75 the fee for a nonresident wild turkey hunting license.

MCL 316.306

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

According to the Department of Natural Resources, the bill would raise approximately \$15,000 in additional revenue annually (based on the number of nonresident turkey hunters who were licensed during the 1989 season). Additional revenues raised under the bill would go into the Game and Fish Protection Fund, to be used for wild turkey management programs. (11-9-89)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

Michigan's nonresident turkey hunting license, about \$29, is the lowest in the nation currently. By raising the fee nonresidents pay to hunt wild turkeys, the bill would bring Michigan's nonresident turkey hunting fee more in line with other states. Fees in other states range from \$42 (New York) to \$150 (Arkansas); some states, in fact, prohibit nonresidents from hunting turkeys entirely (Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Indiana, among others). Additional money raised under the bill would go to pay for wild turkey management programs throughout the state, out of the Game and Fish Protection Fund, which ultimately benefits all who hunt wild turkeys here.

POSITIONS:

The Department of Natural Resources supports the bill. (11-9-89)

The Michigan Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation supports the bill. (10-29-89)

H.B. 5220 (11-13-89)