



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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

NONRESIDENT TURKEY HUNTING LICENSE FEE

RECEIVED

House Bill 5220 as enrolled
Second Analysis (1-2-90)

MAR 05 1990

Sponsor: Rep. Ed Giese

Mich. State Law Library

House Committee: Tourism, Fisheries & Wildlife

Senate Committee: Natural Resources & Environmental
Affairs

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 \$50 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 \$7,500 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. (12-21-89)

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.

Against:

The bill as introduced would have raised the fee to \$75 which would be more in line with what other states charge nonresidents to hunt turkeys. Raising the fee to only \$50 would keep the state's nonresident turkey fee still one of the lowest in the nation for some of the best turkey hunting anywhere. (Michigan's 1989 wild turkey population, according to a DNR spokesperson, was one of the highest

on record and continues to grow.) Further, the higher nonresident fee seems justified considering that hunters from surrounding states that do not allow nonresident turkey hunting have, particularly in parts of the Upper Peninsula, entered Michigan's lottery for turkey hunting permits and squeezed resident hunters out of a chance to hunt in their own state.

H.B. 5220 (1-2-90)