

**SFA**

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Fiscal Agency

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House Bill 4760 (as reported with amendments)

Sponsor: Representative Ed Giese

House Committee: Tourism, Fisheries, and Wildlife

Senate Committee: Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs

Date Completed: 5-26-89

**RATIONALE**

Under the Hunting and Fishing License Act, hunters are required to purchase a small game license before applying for a wild turkey hunting license. The cost for both the wild turkey hunting license and the small game license has recently increased, and some turkey hunters have expressed concern about the affordability of the two licenses. Some people believe that turkey hunters should be allowed to hunt without first having to purchase both the turkey and small game licenses.

In addition, attempts have been made in recent years to accommodate hunters with physical disabilities. One measure that has been taken in several other states is to allow hunters who have lost the use of a hand or arm, or who are confined to a wheelchair, to use a crossbow during the bow and arrow deer hunting season. Some feel Michigan should adopt such a measure.

**CONTENT**

The bill would amend the Hunting and Fishing License Act to delete a requirement that a person possess both a valid turkey license and small game license if he or she carries a firearm or a bow and arrow while in an area open for wild turkey hunting during the spring wild turkey hunting season. The bill would retain the requirement of possession of a turkey license, and specifies that wild turkeys could be taken during the open season for wild turkey with a valid wild turkey hunting license and that a small game license would not be required.

The bill also provides that, upon receiving certification from a licensed physician that an individual had permanently lost the use of an arm or a hand and, because of the loss, the individual was incapable of drawing a compound bow or a long bow, or that the individual was permanently confined to a wheelchair, the Department of Natural Resources could issue the individual a permit to take deer with a crossbow during the season for taking deer with a bow and arrow.

MCL 316.204 et al.

**SENATE COMMITTEE ACTION**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs adopted an amendment to the bill to permit the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to issue a permit to take deer with a crossbow during the bow and arrow deer hunting season to an individual who had permanently lost the use of an arm or hand and consequently was unable to draw a compound or long bow, or who was permanently confined to a wheelchair.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill would have a minimal fiscal impact. A minimal decrease in small game license sales would be anticipated because most of the 25,000 wild turkey hunters also hunt small game and would obtain the license for that purpose.

H.B. 4760 (5-26-89)

## ARGUMENTS

### Supporting Argument

The prices of several hunting and fishing licenses have increased recently, and many hunters are concerned that the cost of certain hunting privileges is excessive. In particular, wild turkey hunters, who must purchase a wild turkey hunting license as well as a small game license, feel that the financial burden is too great. According to surveys by the DNR, most wild turkey hunters would purchase small game licenses later in the year if given the option to purchase that license separately from the license to hunt wild turkey, whose open season is early in the year. The bill would help turkey hunters to continue to afford the sport by allowing them to purchase wild turkey hunting licenses in the early spring, without having first to purchase a small game license, but would not greatly affect revenue from license sales, since these hunters likely would still buy a small game license in the fall.

### Supporting Argument

By allowing a crossbow permit to be issued to hunters who are unable to draw a standard bow due to a physical disability, the bill would extend certain hunting privileges to those who now are unable to participate in such activities.

Response: Hunting with crossbows during the deer season for hunting with bow and arrow should not be allowed under any circumstances. A crossbow, which is activated by a trigger, is more similar to a firearm than a standard compound or long bow. Permitting its use during the bow and arrow season would constitute an unnecessary danger.

### Opposing Argument

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. 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 preferential treatment while others must bear the costs of dual licenses for hunting and fishing privileges.

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### H8990S4760A

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