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BILL ANALYSIS

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House Bill 4764 (Substitute H-1)**Sponsor: Representative Thomas Scott****House Committee: Conservation and Environment****Senate Committee: Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs****Date Completed: 3-1-88****SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4764*****(Substitute H-1) as passed by the House:***

The bill would create a new Act to establish the "Game and Fish Lifetime License Trust Fund" and do all of the following:

- Authorize lifetime licenses to be issued for certain categories of hunting and fishing and specify the fees for those licenses.
- Outline the application process for a lifetime license.
- Regulate the proposed Game and Fish Lifetime License Trust Fund.

Licenses and Fees

The bill would allow certain hunting and fishing licenses, which would be valid for the life of the licensee, to be purchased by a Michigan resident between March 1, 1988, and February 28, 1989. Such a license would allow the licensee the same privileges, responsibilities, and duties that would be allowed by the equivalent annual license or stamp issued under the Hunting and Fishing License Act. Under the bill, the following lifetime licenses could be issued for the indicated fee:

- A small game license for \$220.
- A firearm deer license for \$285.
- A bow and arrow deer license for \$285.
- A sportsperson license for \$1,000.
- A fishing license for \$220.
- A trout and salmon license for \$220.

Application

A lifetime license could be purchased by a Michigan resident at any branch office of the Secretary of State between March 1, 1988, and February 28, 1989. An applicant for licensure would have to submit a completed application and the required fee. The application would have to provide information required by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and would have to include the applicant's name, age, height, weight, and eye color. If the applicant were licensed to drive, his or her driver's license number also would have to be included on the application. If a licensee's name or address changed, he or she would have to notify the DNR.

The bill would allow one person to purchase a lifetime license for another person. Upon receipt of payment, the Secretary of State would have to issue a certificate that would entitle the designated person to apply for a license. If such a certificate were issued in the name of a minor who was too young to use the license legally, the completed application would have to be submitted at a DNR district or regional office when the child reached the minimum legal age to use the license. A recipient of a certificate

could not use the license until he or she completed the application process and received a laminated license from the DNR.

When the Secretary of State received an application for lifetime licensure, a photograph of the applicant would have to be taken and a laminated license prepared. The Secretary of State would have to forward the license, the fee, and the application to the DNR promptly. The DNR would be required to review the application and mail the license to the applicant within seven days. If the DNR determined that the applicant was not eligible for the corresponding license or stamp under the Hunting and Fishing License Act, however, the fee would have to be returned to the applicant with notification of the denial of licensure. (The Secretary of State could retain from the application fee the amount necessary to defray the administrative expenses incurred due to the bill, regardless of whether the application was approved or rejected.)

If a license were lost, damaged, or destroyed, the licensee could apply for a replacement lifetime license by filing an affidavit and meeting the bill's requirements for obtaining a lifetime license. The fee for a lifetime license would be waived, however, if the licensee gave the damaged license to the DNR, or if the facts regarding the destruction or loss of the license were verified by a police report or other verification approved by the DNR. The Director of the DNR or a conservation officer could require a licensee to obtain a replacement if the license were mutilated, illegible, or had a picture that no longer resembled the licensee. The proceeds of the sale of lifetime licenses would have to be forwarded to the State Treasurer.

Game and Fish Lifetime License Trust Fund

The bill would create the "Game and Fish Lifetime License Trust Fund" (Trust Fund) within the State Treasury "for the benefit of the people of this state to assist in providing adequate long-term funding" for the Game and Fish Protection Fund created in Section 601 of the Hunting and Fishing License Act. The State Treasurer would be required to credit money received from the sale of lifetime hunting and fishing licenses to the Trust Fund and invest the Trust Fund in the same manner as surplus funds.

During the period in which lifetime licenses could be sold, the DNR could credit the Game and Fish Protection Fund the amount of money that it would have received had the holder of a lifetime license bought the equivalent annual license during that license year. After the period during which lifetime licenses could be sold, the DNR annually could credit the amount it would have received had the

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lifetime licensee bought the equivalent license during that license year to the Game and Fish Protection Fund from the accumulated interest and earnings of the Trust Fund, and from the corpus of the Trust Fund if interest and earnings were insufficient.

Legislative Analyst: P. Affholter

FISCAL IMPACT

This bill would provide minimal revenues and costs to the State. Because of the relatively high cost for a lifetime license, few people would purchase them. The cost apparently would amortize the lost revenue in future years. There would be minimal administrative costs in additional record keeping and mailings. The bill would have no fiscal impact on local government.

Fiscal Analyst: A. Rich

This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.