

# SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: CS/SB 1384

SPONSOR: Natural Resources Committee and Senator Laurent

SUBJECT: Hunting and Fishing Licenses

DATE: March 16, 1999                      REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Green	Voigt	NR	Favorable/CS
2.			FR	
3.				
4.				
5.				

**I. Summary:**

The bill eliminates the 3-day \$5 nonresident freshwater fishing license. Provides the Legislature shall review the fees for licenses and permits established under chapter 372 every five years during the regular session of the Legislature beginning with the 2000 Regular Session. Eliminates the 3-day \$5 nonresident saltwater fishing license.

The bill amends ss. 372.57 and 370.0605, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, and creates s. 372.5711, Florida Statutes.

**II. Present Situation:**

The 3-day \$5 nonresident freshwater fishing license was implemented in 1997. Many customers who previously bought the 7-day \$15 nonresident freshwater license began buying the 3-day \$5 license. Because these customers are buying the cheaper license, the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (GFC) contends it loses approximately \$600,000 per year in nonresident license fees. The creation of the 3-day \$5 nonresident freshwater fishing license failed to add sufficient customers to offset this loss.

After discovering the loss of revenue resulting from the creation of the 3-day \$5 nonresident freshwater license, GFC staff reviewed existing angler survey data and license sales history, and conducted a survey of Florida bait and tackle stores and marina owners to find possible solutions. GFC staff discovered that 13 other states sell 3-day nonresident freshwater licenses at an average cost of \$13.55. Florida's 3-day \$5 nonresident freshwater license fee is way under the national average. Also surveys indicate nonresident anglers fish an average of 3.6 consecutive days. Therefore, the 3-day license does not cover the entire period, but the existing 7-day \$15 nonresident freshwater license would.

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1. The bill amends s. 372.57, F.S., 1998 Supplement, to eliminate the 3-day \$5 nonresident freshwater fishing license.

Section 2. The bill creates s. 372.5711, F.S., to require that the Legislature review the fees for licenses and permits established under chapter 372, and exemptions thereto, during the regular session of the Legislature every 5 years beginning with the 2000 Regular Session.

Section 3. The bill amends s. 370.0605, F.S., 1998 Supplement, to eliminate the 3-day \$5 nonresident saltwater fishing license.

Section 4. Provides an effective date.

### IV. Constitutional Issues:

#### A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

#### B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

#### C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

### V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

#### A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

#### B. Private Sector Impact:

Eliminating the 3-day \$5 nonresident freshwater fishing license would leave consumers to choose between two existing licenses, the \$30 annual nonresident freshwater license and the 7-day \$15 nonresident freshwater license. Similarly, eliminating the 3-day \$5 nonresident saltwater fishing license would leave consumers with the same choice between a \$30 annual nonresident saltwater license and a 7-day \$15 nonresident saltwater license.

#### C. Government Sector Impact:

The loss of revenue on the 3-day nonresident freshwater fishing license and the fee structure for other licenses and permits offered by GFC is an important issue. Total hunting and fishing license revenues make up only 30 percent of GFC's total revenues, including matching

federal funds. GFC faces a budget shortfall in the State Game Trust Fund. With annual pay raises and increases in health insurance costs, expenditures in fiscal year 1999-2000 will exceed revenues by \$2.7 million. This will fully deplete the balance in the State Game Trust Fund by the end of fiscal year 1999-2000. Without increasing revenues or reducing expenditures, the State Game Trust Fund will face a \$4.5 million shortfall by the end of fiscal year 2000-2001. One way to address some of this shortfall is a thorough review of the hunting and fishing licenses and permits GFC offers, and the fees charged for those licenses and permits.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Amendments:**

None.

---

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

---