

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

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

BILL: CS/SB 2024

SPONSOR: Finance and Taxation Committee and Senator Pruitt

SUBJECT: Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

DATE: April 3, 2001 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Branning</u>	<u>Voigt</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>Fav/6 amendments</u>
2.	<u>Keating</u>	<u>Johansen</u>	<u>FT</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
3.	_____	_____	<u>AGG</u>	_____
4.	_____	_____	<u>AP</u>	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill is part of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s legislative package. The bill provides additional funding for law enforcement, research on manatee avoidance technology, and manatee signs and census in response to the proposed settlement agreement of a pending lawsuit. It specifically provides for a civil penalty of \$100 for violations relating to speed limits established in manatee areas. The vessel registration fees are increased to provide funding for marine law enforcement and manatee protection.

The provisions relating to vessel registrations are modified to provide that the county portion of the vessel registration fee is derived from recreational vessels only. A portion of the vessel registration fee collected by the Fast Title Section of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles would be returned to the vessel owner’s county of residence.

The bill would eliminate the requirements for legislative authorization for the use of certain commission or Marine Research Institute funds for citizen support organizations.

The provisions relating to the disabled exemption from the income requirements for saltwater products license are modified.

The disabled exemption for recreational hunting and fishing licenses is modified to include the Railroad Retirement Board as a certifying entity.

The bill provides that the commission may select a vendor and establish a fee for a state-wide automated license issuance system through a competitive-bid procedure.

The provisions of ch. 370, F.S., relating to noncommercial saltwater licenses and permits are repealed in ch. 370, F.S., and are merged into the freshwater fishing provisions of ch. 372, F.S.

Creates an annual resident, gold sportsman's license for a fee of \$82. The gold sportsman's license authorizes the person to whom it is issued to take freshwater fish, saltwater fish, and game. It also includes activities authorized by a management area permit, a muzzle-loading gun permit, a turkey permit, a Florida water fowl permit, an archery permit, a snook permit and a crawfish permit.

The fees for certain other licenses and permits are revised and increased. Those licenses and permits affected include: private game preserves and farms permits, nonresident turkey licenses; private hunting preserve licenses; and wildlife exhibition licenses. The following licenses are created: fishing rod license and a personal pet license for Class III wildlife. The bill also provides for a processing fee for certain licenses and permits that are issued at no cost.

Provides that if a person who is cited for a violation of s. 327.395, F.S., can show proof of having a boating safety identification card issued to him or her and valid at the time of the citation, the clerk of the court shall dismiss the case and may assess a \$5 dismissal fee.

Includes in the definition of "abandoned property", vessels determined to be derelict by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission or a county or municipality.

Various provisions relating to subagents are modified to conform to the automatic license process.

The state subsidy to landowners who participate in the user-pay program is eliminated.

This bill amends ss. 327.73, 328.72, 328.76, 370.06, 372.0215, 372.105, 372.106, 372.16, 372.561, 372.57, 372.571, 372.5712, 372.5715, 372.574, 372.661, 372.711, 372.921, 372.922, and 705.101, F.S.

The bill creates ss. 372.5701, 372.5702, 372.5704, and 372.579, F.S.

The bill repeals ss. 370.0605, 370.0608, 370.0609, 370.0615, 370.062, 370.1111, and 370.14(10) and (11), F.S.

II. Present Situation:

Section 372.5711, F.S., provides that the Legislature is required to review the fees for fishing and hunting licenses and permits issued by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission every 5 years beginning in 2000. During the interim preceding the 2000 session, the Senate Natural Resources Committee conducted such a review. As a result, CS/SB 386 (ch. 2000-362, L.O.F.) was introduced and passed which implemented some of the findings and recommendations contained in the committee's report. This legislation provided for:

- A combination license for a resident to take freshwater fish and saltwater fish.
- A combination license for a resident to hunt and take freshwater fish and saltwater fish.

- A permanent hunting and freshwater fishing license for a resident 64 years of age or older.
- The commission to establish a fee for electronic license sales.
- The commission to designate by rule, not more than 2 consecutive or nonconsecutive days in each year as free saltwater fishing days.
- The elimination of three under-utilized licenses that were basically obsolete — Resident Local Fur Dealer License; Resident Fur Dealer Agent License; and Nonresident Fur Dealer Agent License.

The Senate Natural Resources Committee interim report found that many of the fees charged for fishing and hunting licenses have not been changed in many years and the cost increases of operations cannot be met from these user fees. As a consequence, increased agency operations costs have created more demand on the General Revenue Fund.

In 1942 when the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission was created, hunting and fishing licenses were about the only source of revenue for this agency. Today, these license sales barely make up 30 percent of the agency's total revenues (including federal matching funds,) while an average of 30 percent of the agency's revenues comes from the state's General Revenue Fund.

License revenues are deposited into the State Game Trust Fund. Other funds which support the commission's activities include the Nongame Wildlife Trust Fund, the Panther Research and Management Trust Fund, and the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. Since the mid 1980s, the Game and Freshwater Fish Commission (the predecessor to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) has had to depend on significant subsidies of General Revenue to meet its operating costs.

The percentage of General Revenue Fund dollar supporting the agency's budget fluctuates from approximately 26 percent to 45 percent each year. While the percentage of subsidies from the General Revenue Fund fluctuates, the actual dollars received continues to rise. Over the years, revenue from license sales has been declining or stagnating. Because revenues have been declining, the commission has experienced revenue shortfalls in the past.

The commission issues more than 85 licenses pursuant to ch. 372, F.S. Of those, the annual resident fishing license is the largest single revenue producer at around \$5 million. Annual management area permits produce about \$1.5 million. The next two largest fee producers are the nonresident annual fishing license and the annual resident hunting license. Both of these licenses produce annual revenues at approximately \$1.5 million. Many license fees have not increased since they were first established. There are seven licenses which have not been increased since they were established in 1929, and eight licenses that have not been increased in 20 years or more.

Florida's license fees are less than the national average for every category except its nonresident hunting license and its resident trapping license. A Florida nonresident hunting license is \$150. The national average is \$65.26. However, Florida does not require big game special tags or permits as other states do in addition to the basic license.

In its proposed legislative package for 2001, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission proposed several fee increases for various licenses and proposed a few new licenses. The overall purpose was to help alleviate some of the commission's ongoing trust fund problems.

Recently, federal and state lawsuits were filed against the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission by a coalition of environmental groups alleging that Florida allowed the unlawful taking of manatees due to a lack of protective measures. In the proposed settlement agreement for the state suit, an increased law enforcement presence is required to enforce boating speed limits and otherwise regulate boat traffic in manatee protection areas.

Recreational licenses are primarily sold by the county tax collectors and by their appointed subagents, such as bait and tackle shops, who serve to increase availability for public convenience. Approximately 85% are sold using a manual stamp inventory system. The manual system uses an identification card to which licenses and permit stamps are affixed as they are purchased. Sheets of stamps are printed by the commission and issued to tax collectors who in turn issue them to subagents. As stamps are sold, they are accounted for and revenues sent to the commission monthly. A major drawback of the manual system is that it is very labor intensive. There are about 30 different licenses and permits for which tax collectors and subagents must keep and account for the stamp sheet inventories. Subagents receive 50 cents for each license and permit sold and tax collectors receive \$1.00 for each freshwater or hunting license or \$1.50 for each saltwater license sold. Both subagents and tax collectors feel like the fees received do not begin to compensate them for the cost of the labor they invest in handling the manual system.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill is part of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's legislative package. The bill provides additional funding for law enforcement, research on manatee avoidance technology, and manatee signs and census in response to the proposed settlement agreement of recent lawsuits.

The following is a section-by-section explanation of the bill.

Section 1. Section 370.12(2), F.S., currently authorizes the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to post and regulate boat speeds for manatee protection purposes. Section 327.395, F.S., provides that a person 21 years of age or younger may not operate a powerboat unless such person has on the boat, a boating safety identification cards. This bill amends s. 327.73, F.S., to do the following:

- Provide for a civil penalty of \$100 for violations of the posted manatee protection boat speed limits pursuant to s. 370.12(2); and
- Provides that if a person who is cited for a violation of s. 327.395, F.S., can show proof of having a boating safety identification card issued to him or her and valid at the time of the citation, the clerk of the court shall dismiss the case and may assess a \$5 dismissal fee.

Section 2. Section 328.72, F.S., is amended to increase the vessel registration fees. The proposed fee increases are:

- Class A-1 (less than 12 ft. and all canoes to which a motor is attached)—from \$3.50 to \$8.50
- Class A-2 (12 ft. or more and less than 16 ft.)—from \$10.50 to \$15.50 – to the county, \$2.85
- Class 1 (16 ft. or more and less than 26 ft.)—from \$18.50 to \$28.50 – to the county, \$8.85
- Class 2 (26 ft. or more and less than 40 ft.)—from \$50.50 to \$65.50 – to the county, \$32.85
- Class 3 (40 ft. or more and less than 65 ft.)—from \$82.50 to \$97.50 – to the county, \$56.85
- Class 4 (65 ft. or more and less than 110 ft.)—from \$98.50 to \$113.50 – to the county \$68.85
- Class 5 (110 ft. or more)—from \$122.50 to \$137.50 – to the county \$86.85
- Dealer registration certificate—from \$16.50 to \$26.50

The county portion of the vessel registration fee is derived from recreational vessels only. The moneys returned to the counties are for the sole purposes of providing recreational channel marking and public launching facilities and other boating-related activities, for removal of vessels and floating structures deemed a hazard to public safety and health, and for manatee and marine mammal protection and recovery.

This bill provides that the county portion of the vessel registration certificate fee collected by the Fast Title Section of the Bureau of Titles and Registration of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles must be returned to the vessel owner's county of Florida residence.

Section 3. Section 328.76, F.S., generally provides that all funds collected from the registration of vessels through the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and the tax collectors of the state, except the funds designated for the use of the counties, shall be deposited in the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund for recreational channel making; public launching facilities; law enforcement and quality control programs; aquatic weed control; manatee protection, recovery, rescue, rehabilitation, and release; and marine mammal protection and recovery.

This bill amends s. 328.76, F.S., to provide that certain amounts derived from the vessel registration fee shall be transferred to the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund to fund additional on-the-water law enforcement efforts of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Those amounts are:

- \$3 from each Class A-1 vessel registration fee
- \$3 from each Class A-2 vessel registration fee
- \$8 from each Class 1 vessel registration fee
- \$13 from each Class 2 vessel registration fee
- \$13 from each Class 3 vessel registration fee

- \$13 from each Class 4 vessel registration fee
- \$13 from each Class 5 vessel registration fee
- \$8 from each dealer registration certificate

In addition, \$1 from each vessel registered in this state must be used to fund additional research and development of manatee protection and technology with primary focus for manatee avoidance technology for watercrafts, and \$1 from each vessel registered in this state shall be used for additional funding for manatee population research and census efforts and manatee signs on waterways.

Section 4. Section 370.06, F.S., requires any person, firm, or corporation that sells, or offers to sell, any saltwater products, or which harvests saltwater products with certain gear or equipment as specified by law to have a valid saltwater products license, except that holders of an aquaculture certificate are not required to purchase and possess a saltwater products license in order to possess, transport, or sell marine aquaculture products. Certain income requirements also apply. Currently, any resident who is certified to be permanently disabled by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or its predecessor, or by any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, or who holds a valid identification card issued by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, or any resident certified to be totally disabled by the U.S. Social Security Administration is exempt from the income requirements if he or she also has held a saltwater products license for at least 3 of the last 5 license years prior to the date of the disability. This bill would also include those persons who are certified to be permanently disabled by the Railroad Retirement Board to be exempt from the income requirements.

Section 5. A resident lifetime sportsman license authorizes the holder to take or possess freshwater fish, marine fish, and game. It also allows activities authorized by a management area permit, a muzzle-loading permit, a turkey permit, an archery permit, a Florida waterfowl permit, a snook permit, and a crawfish permit. This bill amends s. 372.105, F.S., to allow all of the proceeds from the sale of lifetime licenses to be deposited into the Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund. Currently, the portion of the lifetime licenses pertaining to saltwater products is deposited into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund. All interest earnings from the sale of 5-year saltwater fishing licenses will be returned to the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund.

Section 6. Currently s. 370.0605, F.S., provides for saltwater fishing licenses and fees. This bill repeals this section and merges the saltwater fishing provisions into s. 372.57, F.S. Section 372.106, F.S., is amended to delete a reference to s. 370.0605, F.S., and therefore allow all of the moneys collected for 5-year licenses to be deposited into the Dedicated License Trust Fund.

Section 7. Section 372.16, F.S., is amended to increase the fee for private game preserves and farms from \$5 per year to \$25 per year.

Section 8. Substantially rewords s. 372.561, F.S. to clarify the FWCC's authority to issue licenses, permits and authorizations to take wild animal life, freshwater aquatic life, and marine life. Authorizes the FWCC to establish a statewide automated licensing system using competitive bid procedures. Provides the FWCC with necessary rulemaking authority under

chapter 120, F.S. In addition to each hunting and freshwater fishing license sold, the bill provides that for each sportsman's license and gold sportsman's license sold, the tax collector may retain \$1.

Section 9. Creates s. 372.562 to provide for free licenses and permits, and for exemptions from license and permit requirements when certain conditions have been met.

Section 10. Substantially rewords s. 372.57, F.S., to incorporate and clarify provisions from s. 370.0605, F.S., relating to saltwater recreational fishing licenses. The bill makes the following changes to saltwater recreational fishing licenses:

- Creates an annual, resident gold sportsman's license for a fee of \$82. The gold sportsman's license authorizes the person to whom it is issued to take freshwater fish, saltwater fish, and game. It also includes activities authorized by a management area permit, a muzzle-loading gun permit, a turkey permit, a Florida water fowl permit, an archery permit, a snook permit and a crawfish permit.
- Creates a 1-day recreational saltwater fishing license available to non-residents for a fee of \$7.50.
- Deletes the 3-day recreational saltwater fishing license available to non-residents for a fee of \$5.
- Increases from \$5 to \$100 the annual Florida turkey permit for non-residents.
- Provides that the annual Florida turkey permit for residents is not changed.
- Eliminates the state subsidy payment to private landowners for recreational user permit fees for lands leased by the FWCC and provides that future payments will be generated by the recreational user permit fees.

Section 11. Section 372.5701, F.S., is created to provide for the deposit of annual saltwater license revenues into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund and it also specifies how the fees are to be used. These provisions were formerly contained in s. 370.0608, F.S., which is repealed by this bill.

Section 12. Section 372.5702, F.S., is created to provide for the requirements for the expenditure of certain funds for marine research. The provisions of this section were formerly contained in s. 370.0609, F.S., which is repealed by this bill.

Section 13. Section 372.5704, F.S., is created to provide for a license program for tarpon. The provisions of this section were formerly contained in s. 370.062, F.S., which is repealed by this bill.

Section 14. Section 372.571, F.S., is amended to provide for expiration dates for the saltwater licenses since those provisions have been moved to ch. 372, F.S., from ch. 370, F.S.

Section 15. Section 372.5712, F.S., is amended to conform a cross reference.

Section 16. Section 372.5715, F.S., is amended to conform a cross reference.

Section 17. Section 371.573, F.S., is amended to conform a cross reference.

Section 18. Section 372.574, F.S., is amended to modify the reporting requirements for subagents from monthly to weekly to conform with statewide automated license system.

Section 19. Section 372.579, F.S., is created to allow the commission to adopt a processing fee, not to exceed \$100, for each license or permit previously issued at no cost by the commission. The commission shall annually report actions taken under this section to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Section 20. Section 372.661, F.S., is amended to increase the license fee for private hunting preserves. Currently, the fee is \$25 per year. This bill increases the fee to \$50 per year.

Section 21. Section 372.711, F.S., is amended to provide for a \$5 dismissal fee for hunters and anglers who could not produce a license at the time of an arrest, but had purchased a license prior to the arrest. The license must be produced prior to or at the time of their court appearance or the clerk of the court prior to the court appearance. The clerk of the court retains the \$5 fee.

Section 22. Section 372.921, F.S., is amended to expand the wildlife exhibition permit to include amphibians. Currently, no person, firm, corporation, or association may have or be in possession of, in captivity for the purpose of public display with or without charge or for public sale any wildlife, specifically birds, mammals, and reptiles without first obtaining a permit from the commission.

Current law provides that the exhibition fee is based on the number of individual specimens that the permit holder has — \$5 for not more than 10 individual specimens, and \$25 for more than 10 individual specimens. This bill increases the fee and provides that it be based not only on the number of specimens held, but also on the class of specimen held. The fee will be \$100 per year for having not more than 25 Class I or Class II individual specimens in the aggregate for all species, and \$250 per year for more than 25 individual specimens. A Class I permit is for wildlife which because of its nature, habits, or status, shall not be possessed as a personal pet. Examples of Class I wildlife include chimpanzees, gorillas, leopards, lions, tigers, bears, and elephants. A Class II permit is for wildlife considered to present a real or potential threat to human safety. Examples of Class II wildlife include Howler monkeys, macaques, cougars, panthers, bobcats, ocelots, coyotes, and wolves.

The bill also provides for a fee of \$25 per year for having any number of Class III individual specimens in the aggregate. A Class III permit is for wildlife to be specified by commission rule. Class III animals are those wildlife not listed as Class I or Class II.

Section 23. Section 372.922, F.S., relating to the personal possession of wildlife, is amended to create a Class III wildlife permit as specified by commission rule with a fee of \$25 per year. Currently, Class I wildlife cannot be possessed as a personal pet. The permit fee for possession of Class II wildlife is \$100 per year.

Section 24. Section 705.101(3), F.S., defines “abandoned property” to mean all tangible personal property that does not have an identifiable owner and that has been disposed on public property in a wrecked, inoperative, or partially dismantled condition or has no apparent intrinsic value to the rightful owner. However, vessels determined to be derelict by the Fish and Wildlife

Conservation Commission or a county or municipality in accordance with the provisions of s. 823.11 are not include within this definition. The bill amends s. 705.101(3), F.S., to include in the definition of “abandoned property”, vessels determined to be derelict by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission or a county or municipality.

Section 25. The following sections are repealed since those provisions have been moved to ch. 372, F.S.

- Section 370.0605 – Saltwater fishing licenses and fees
- Section 370.0608 – Deposit of saltwater license fees and allocation of federal funds
- Section 370.0609 – Expenditure of funds to various specified entities
- Section 370.0615 – Saltwater lifetime licenses
- Section 370.062 – License program for tarpon
- Section 370.1111 – Snook regulations
- Subsections (10) and (11) of s. 370.14, F.S., - Recreational crawfish regulations

Section 26. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

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:

- Provides for a civil penalty of \$100 for violations of boat speed limits.
- Increases the vessel registration fees.
- Revises provisions relating to the county portion of vessel registration fees.
- Allows residents certified to be totally and permanently disabled by the Railroad Retirement Board to receive an exemption from the fees for hunting and fishing licenses.
- Creates the residential gold sportsman’s license for \$82.
- Deletes the 3-day, \$5 nonresident saltwater fishing license and creates a 1-day, \$7.50 nonresident saltwater fishing license.
- Deletes the User-Pay Program subsidies to private landowners.
- Creates a \$100-nonresident Florida turkey permit.

- Creates a processing fee for licenses and permit issued at no cost.
- Creates a fishing rod license.
- Creates a \$5 dismissal fee for hunters and anglers who could not produce a license at the time of the arrest, but had purchased a license prior to the arrest.
- Revises and increases the wildlife exhibition permit fees.
- Increases the private hunting preserve licenses.
- Increases the private game preserves and farms licenses.

According to an analysis by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission the proposed increase in permits and license fees will result in an estimated increase in state trust fund revenues of \$1.0 million in fiscal year 2001-02, with a corresponding increase in the General Revenue Service Charge of \$0.1 million.

The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles estimates a total increase in vessel registration fees of \$6.4 million in fiscal year 2001-02, with an increase to the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund of \$6.0 million and \$0.4 million in General Revenue Service Charges.

Issue/Fund	General Revenue		Trust Fund		Local		Total	
	1 st Yr.	Recurring	1 st Yr.	Recurring	1 st Yr.	Recurring	1 st Yr.	Recurring
Vessel Registration Fee Increase	\$ 0.4	\$ 0.4	\$ 6.0	\$ 6.0	\$	\$	\$ 6.4	\$ 6.4
Fishing & Hunting Licenses Fee Increase	0.1	0.1	1.0	1.0			1.1	1.1
Total	0.5	0.5	7.0	7.0			7.5	7.5

The privatization of the state-wide automated license issuance system will increase the cost of every license or permit issued by the commission by up to \$1.00 to cover the cost of running the automated system. Full implementation is expected by July 2002. With the automated system, license and permit fee revenues will be deposited into state trust funds within seven days, instead of the current 30 days, which will increase interest earnings on such revenues.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Those persons obtaining a wildlife exhibition permit, a private game preserve permit, a private hunting preserve permit or a private hunting preserve permit will have to pay more for those permits. The fees for the wildlife exhibition permit have not been increased for at least 20 years. The fee for a private preserve or farm has not been increased since 1929 and the fee for the private hunting preserve has not been increased since 1959. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has estimated that they expect to issue the following permits in FY 2001-2002:

Wildlife Exhibition Class I, II (<25 specimens)	600 @ \$100
Wildlife Exhibition Class I, II (>25 specimens)	100 @ \$250
Wildlife Exhibition Class III	4,100 @ \$25
Personal possession of wildlife Class I, II	196 @ \$100

Personal possession of wildlife Class III 2,000 @ \$25

Many states, particularly western states, charge nonresidents a significant fee to hunt big game and trophy species. Florida is the only place where one can bag an Osceola turkey. Many out-of-state hunters come to Florida specifically for this turkey. Currently, Florida charges \$5 to hunt turkey. There is no distinction between residents and nonresidents. This bill proposes to charge nonresidents \$100 to take turkey in Florida. It is not known how many persons this will affect since no records have been kept to distinguish between residents buying turkey permits and nonresidents buying turkey permits.

The rod license provision in the bill would allow hotels, motels, and resorts to provide an opportunity for visitors to fish without having to buy a fishing permit. The hotel, motel, or resort would rent the rod to which a license is attached for an amount to be set by the private sector. To date, there are no programs anywhere in the country that rent fishing tackle with a blanket fishing license. The commission has indicated that it would limit this program to a couple of counties as a pilot project to determine its usefulness.

Private landowners would no longer be able to receive the subsidies from the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as an inducement to keep their lands open and available for public hunting. For fiscal year 2000-2001, the amount of the subsidies was estimated to be \$379,568 in addition to other types of land lease programs of the commission. The proposed state-wide automated license issuance system will increase up to \$1.00, every hunting and fishing license and permit issued throughout the state. The additional license or permit fee will be retained by the vendor selected by the Commission to cover the costs of running the automated system. Currently the Commission issues 2.2 million licenses and permits annually.

The gold sportsman’s license will allow Florida residents to purchase one license to cover all types of hunting and fishing activities.

Persons registering a vessel in Florida will experience an increase in the fees for such registration. Also, pursuant to s. 328.66, F.S., any person registering a vessel in Florida who lives in a county that imposes its own vessel registration fee will experience an increase in the county fee in an amount equal to 50 percent of the amount charged at the state level.

C. Government Sector Impact:

According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Bureau of Licensing and Permitting, the following fee increases will generate an increase in trust fund revenues of \$1,096,165:

<u>License/Permit Type</u>	<u>No. of Permits</u>	<u>Cost of Permits</u>	<u>Total Increase in Revenues</u>
Wildlife Exhibition			
• Class I, II (<25) (less current rev.)	600	\$100	\$60,000 (6,090)
• Class I, II (>25)	100	\$250	\$25,000
			\$102,500

• Class III (less current rev.)	4,100	\$25	(81,250)
Personal Pet			
• Class I, II (less current rev.)	196 2,000	\$100 \$25	\$19,600 (18,900)
• Class III			\$50,000
Game Preserves & Farms (less current revenue)	564	\$25	\$14,100 (2,735)
Hunting Preserves (less current revenues)	136	\$50	\$6,800 (3,450)
Processing Fees	6,000	Unknown*	\$180,000
Rod License	Pilot Program	\$200	Unknown**
Non-res. turkey permit (less current revenues)	1,504	\$100	\$150,400 (7,520)
1-day non-res. saltwater license *** (less current rev.)	243,084	\$7.50	\$1,823,130 <u>(1,215,420)</u>
	TOTAL INCREASE		\$1,096,165 @

*Amount of fee to be set by commission rule

**Pilot area to be determined, number of participants unknown.

***Replaces the current 3-day non-resident \$5 license

@ Estimates do not include the gold sportsman's license

The money available for the subsidies currently is funded from the State Game Trust Fund. By eliminating the subsidies, there will be a savings realized in this trust fund. As part of the Governor's proposed 5 percent reductions, the commission is offering to use these trust fund savings as a way to reduce the amount of General Revenue Funds that would be needed for general operations. The amount anticipated for fiscal year 2000-2001 is \$379,568.

Based on the number of vessels registered in FY 1998-1999 (780,995), the vessel registration fee increases proposed by this bill would increase revenue by a total of \$6,416,150. Of this amount, \$4,488,669 would be transferred to the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund to provide additional on-the-water enforcement efforts by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. [The FY 1998-1999 data that was used does not reflect staggered vessel registration by birth month.]

An amount equal to \$1 from each vessel registered in this state (\$787,002) would fund additional research and development of manatee protection and technology with primary focus for avoidance technology for watercraft.

An amount equal to \$1 from each vessel registered in this (\$787,002) would be used for additional funding for manatee population research and census efforts and manatee signs on the waterways.

Pursuant to s. 328.66, F.S., any county may impose an annual registration fee on vessels registered, operated, or stored in the water within its jurisdiction. If the county imposes such

a fee, the amount of the fee shall be 50 percent of the applicable state registration fee. However, \$1 of every registration imposed under this provision shall be remitted to the state for deposit in the Save the Manatee Trust Fund within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Since this bill increases the boat registration fees at the state level, any county that imposes a county registration fee must increase their fee by 50 percent of the state fee. The amount of such increases in each county that has such a county registration fee is not known at this time.

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.
