

HF276 - 0 - Fishing License Fees Modified

Chief Author: **Jim Nash**
 Committee: **Environment And Natural Resources Finance And Policy**
 Date Completed: **2/19/2025 10:31:53 AM**
 Lead Agency: **Natural Resources Dept**
 Other Agencies:
 Minn Management and Budget

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings) Dollars in Thousands	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Minn Management and Budget					
General Fund	-	798	862	926	987
Natural Resources Dept	-	-	-	-	-
Game And Fish Operations	-	-	-	-	-
State Total					
General Fund	-	798	862	926	987
Game And Fish Operations	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	798	862	926	987
Biennial Total			1,660		1,913

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Minn Management and Budget					
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Natural Resources Dept	-	-	-	-	-
Game And Fish Operations	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

Lead LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Jim Carlson **Date:** 2/19/2025 10:31:53 AM
Phone: 651-284-6540 **Email:** jim.carlson@lbo.mn.gov

State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Minn Management and Budget						
General Fund	-	798	862	926	987	
Natural Resources Dept						
Game And Fish Operations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	798	862	926	987	987
	Biennial Total		1,660		1,913	1,913
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
Minn Management and Budget						
General Fund						
Expenditures	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers Out	-	798	862	926	987	
Natural Resources Dept						
Game And Fish Operations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	798	862	926	987	987
	Biennial Total		1,660		1,913	1,913
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
Minn Management and Budget						
General Fund						
Revenues	-	(798)	(862)	(926)	(987)	
Transfers In	-	798	862	926	987	
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Biennial Total		-		-	-

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Expenditures		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

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State Cost (Savings)	Biennium			Biennium		
	Dollars in Thousands	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Game And Fish Operations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-			-

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Game And Fish Operations	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Jim Carlson **Date:** 2/19/2025 10:31:44 AM
Phone: 651-284-6540 **Email:** jim.carlson@lbo.mn.gov

State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

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State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	
Game And Fish Operations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-			-
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
Game And Fish Operations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-			-
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
Game And Fish Operations						
Revenues	-	(798)	(862)	(926)	(987)	
Transfers In	-	798	862	926	987	
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-			-

Bill Description

This bill proposal aims to reduce fishing license fees for individuals aged 65 and older. It also includes provisions to transfer general funds, for the amount of lost revenue, to support this change.

Assumptions

Lawmakers should be aware that the DNR, MNIT, and PayIt Outdoors, LLC (Contractor) are planning to launch a new Electronic License System (ELS) later in 2025, though the exact launch date is not yet determined. The system is expected to enable DNR staff to configure this new license type independently, helping to avoid additional contractor development costs. We anticipate this may need to be configured in the current ELS.

For Minnesota resident anglers, this bill proposal would mean that those aged 65 and older would pay less for their fishing licenses. Additionally, the proposal includes a provision to transfer funds, to cover the cost of the reduced fees and support the overall fishing and wildlife programs in the state.

We assume that this will only affect the Resident Individual Angling license (currently, \$25), and individuals who purchase other types of licenses will not be eligible for any changes or refunds if they find that the new license is more cost-effective. Anglers 90+ will continue to fish for free as allowed by M.S. 97A.451, Subd. 8.

We assume that licensed agents who sell this item will be eligible to collect and retain a \$1 issuing fee, as outlined in M.S. 97A.485, Subd. 6 (a)(3).

The License Year starts on March 1 each year. We anticipate that eligible individuals will be 65 years old on or after July 1, 2025. The data we used comes from individuals who held a Resident Individual Angling license during License Year 2024 and are projected to be age 65-89 at the beginning of each fiscal year referenced. Additionally, we assume that those who purchased a license before the effective date, of this proposal, will not qualify for a refund.

Transfers from the Lifetime Trust Fund will be reduced based on lifetime license holders who will be in the reduced license age range. We assume these lifetime license holders will continue to renew as they age, with the age 65-89 cohort increasing over time.

We assume those eligible for reduced fee licenses will also purchase required stamps and/or endorsements if required by

regulation.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

	Rate	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Regular license holders age 65-89		75,388	81,413	87,465	93,293
Lifetime license holders age 65-89		4,415	4,824	5,141	5,399
Total affected license holders		79,803	86,237	92,606	98,692
Reduction to license sales	(-\$10)	(\$798,030)	(\$862,370)	(\$926,060)	(\$986,920)
Transfer Out - General Fund		(\$798,030)	(\$862,370)	(\$926,060)	(\$986,920)
Transfer In - Game & Fish Fund		\$798,030	\$862,370	\$926,060	\$986,920

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

With an aging population, we expect these numbers to increase over time.

Local Fiscal Impact

N/A

References/Sources

M.S. 97A.475

M.S. 97A.451, Subd. 8

Agency Contact: Linda Kelly (651) 259-5238

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General Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Chloe Burns **Date:** 2/19/2025 10:26:53 AM
Phone: 651-297-1423 **Email:** chloe.burns@lbo.mn.gov

State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

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2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
General Fund						
Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-		-	

Bill Description

A bill for an act relating to game and fish to reduce fishing license fees for persons 65 years of age and older from \$25 to \$15. Bill requires Minnesota Management and Budget(MMB) to transfer lost revenue from the general fund to Department of Natural Resources (DNR), SF428-0 amends Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 97A.055, subdivision 2, by adding a subdivision; 97A.475, subdivision 6.

Assumptions

MMB assumes effective date is July 1, 2025.

Lost revenue is \$10 (\$25-\$15) per license sold to persons aged 65 or over. This is assumed to include both annual and lifetime licenses. MMB assumes that this will only impact Resident Individual Angling licenses.

Transfers from the Lifetime Trust Fund will be reduced based on lifetime license holders who will be in the reduced license age range. We assume these lifetime license holders will continue to renew as they age, with the age 65-89 cohort increasing over time.

DNR is using the following estimates for licenses sold annually to persons aged 65 or over:

Fiscal Year	Regular License	Lifetime License	Total Licenses
2026	75,388	4,415	79,803
2027	81,413	4,824	86,237
2028	87,465	5,141	92,606
2029	93,293	5,399	98,692

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

Using DNR estimates for anticipated sales of licenses, MMB projects the following to be transferred from the general fund:

FY26: $79,803 * \$10$ (Lost Revenue) = \$798,030

FY27: $86,237 * \$10$ (Lost Revenue) = \$862,370

FY28: $92,606 * \$10$ (Lost Revenue) = \$926,060

FY29: $98,692 * \$10$ (Lost Revenue) = \$986,920

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

With an aging population, we expect these numbers to increase over time.

Local Fiscal Impact

References/Sources

Agency Contact: Ronika Rampadarat 651-201-8115

Agency Fiscal Note Coordinator Signature: Ronika Rampadarat

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