

**STATE
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 13-0560
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. McLachlan
 Senator King

Date: February 15, 2013
Bill Status: House Agriculture
Fiscal Analyst: Kirk Mlinek (303-866-2756)

TITLE: CONCERNING FISHING LICENSES FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE IN REHABILITATION DUE TO SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2013-2014	FY 2014-2015
State Revenue		
Cash Funds		
Wildlife Cash Fund	up to (\$10,584)	up to (\$10,584)
State Expenditures	See State Expenditures section.	
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: August 7, 2013, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 8, 2013, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2013-2014: None required.		
Local Government Impact: None.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill expands the free fishing license program to persons assigned to the Warrior Transition Battalion. Currently, free fishing licenses are available to active or retired members of the United States armed forces who are permanently disabled, resident patients at certain care facilities, or Colorado residents on leave visiting home.

Background

The U.S. Army has established Warrior Transition Units (WTU) at major military treatment facilities throughout the world. WTUs provide personal support to wounded soldiers who require at least 6 months of rehabilitative care and complex medical management. Colorado's WTU is located at Fort Carson, near Colorado Springs, Colorado.

State Revenue

The bill could result in a revenue reduction in the Wildlife Cash Fund in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) of up to \$10,584 in FY 2013-14 and future years. According to the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs there are 294 soldiers

assigned to Colorado's WTU. Fishing licenses are issued by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) in the DNR. A resident fishing license costs \$26; a \$10 habitat stamp must be purchased at the same time (294 soldiers * \$36 = \$10,584). While the fiscal note assumes that all eligible soldiers will take advantage of the benefit, the actual number is unknown. Further, the number of soldiers assigned to the WTU will vary over time.

State Expenditures

Any change to the license system or licensing process will be accomplished by CPW within existing appropriations.

Technical Note

The fiscal note assumes that the bill does not apply to a Community-based Warrior Transition Unit (CBWTU), which functions as a WTU for soldiers who receive medical care in their community, primarily on an outpatient basis. Clinical care requirements determine whether a soldier is assigned to a WTU or CBWTU.

Departments Contacted

Natural Resources

Military and Veterans Affairs