

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
(317) 232-9855

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7855**  
**BILL NUMBER: SB 601**

**DATE PREPARED:** Jan 14, 1999  
**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Hunting on part of the St. Joseph River.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** Bernadette Bartlett  
**PHONE NUMBER:** 232-9586

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**  **GENERAL**  
 **DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill prohibits shooting with a firearm from the part of the St. Joseph River that lies between the Twin Branch Dam and the St. Joseph County and Elkhart County lines.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 1999.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The Division of Fish and Wildlife of the Department of Natural Resources may incur additional minimal expenses related to public notification of the change. The additional expenses could be absorbed within the Division's current budget.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** This bill prohibits the use of firearms on a certain section of the St. Joseph River. Violation of this provision constitutes a Class C misdemeanor. If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund and the state General Fund could increase. The maximum fine for a Class C misdemeanor is \$500. Criminal fines are deposited in the Common School Fund. If the case is filed in a circuit, superior, county or municipal court (courts of record), 70% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed and collected when a guilty verdict is entered would be deposited in the State General Fund. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 55% of the fee would be deposited in the State General Fund.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** A Class C misdemeanor is punishable by up to 60 days in jail. The average daily cost to incarcerate a prisoner in a county jail is approximately \$44.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from the following sources: (1) The county general fund would receive 27% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed in a court of record. Cities and towns maintaining a law enforcement agency that prosecutes at least 50% of its ordinance violations in a court of record may receive 3% of court fees. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 20% of the court fee would be deposited in the county general fund and 25% would be deposited in the city or town general fund. (2) A \$3 fee would be

assessed, and if collected would be deposited into the county law enforcement continuing education fund.  
(3) A \$2 jury fee is assessed, and if collected, would be deposited into the county user fee fund to supplement the compensation of jury members.

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Natural Resources.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

**Information Sources:**