

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

301 State House  
(317) 232-9855

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6428**

**BILL NUMBER: HB 1063**

**DATE PREPARED:** Jan 15, 2000

**BILL AMENDED:** Jan 13, 2000

**SUBJECT:** Hunting preserves.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** Bernadette Bartlett

**PHONE NUMBER:** 233-9586

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

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill provides that the Department of Natural Resources may license hunting preserves to propagate and offer white-tailed deer for hunting by licensed hunters during eight months of the year (September through April). It requires a hunting preserve to be a fenced, contiguous property that contains at least 500 acres and no public highway and makes numerous provisions governing the operation and regulation of hunting preserves, including inspection, license renewal, and record keeping. The bill also provides that hunting preserve property may not be classified as a windbreak, wildlife habitat, or filter strip for property tax assessment purposes.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2000.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** (Revised) This bill would allow individuals to establish hunting preserves. Hunting preserves would be enclosures no less than 500 acres in size used for the hunting of white-tailed deer. Under current law, individuals may establish shooting preserves for the hunting of certain animals including game birds, but not including deer.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would incur additional expenses due to the inspection of hunting preserves and the administration of applications and fees. The total cost to the DNR associated with this proposal depends on the number of preserves that would be established. The Department currently has similar inspection and administrative responsibilities related to shooting preserves.

The State could incur additional expenses if hunting preserves contribute to conditions that lead to the spread of disease or weakening of the genetic make-up of wild deer populations.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** An individual establishing a hunting preserve would pay an annual application fee of \$1,000 to the DNR. It is not known how many hunting preserves would be established, but in 1997 there were eleven shooting preserves in the state. Indiana residents may hunt on these preserves using

their state-issued licenses, but nonresidents would have to pay a \$25 license fee which would be deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Fund. In 1997, 1,048 licenses for hunting in shooting preserves were sold to nonresidents at \$8.75 each.

Establishing hunting preserves may increase the number of hunting licenses sold in Indiana. Most fees collected from the sale of licenses are deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Fund which is used to finance the operations of the DNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Division of Law Enforcement. The Game Bird Habitat Fund receives \$4 from each nonresident hunting license sold and \$40 from each nonresident deer license sold. The Deer Research Fund receives \$20 from each nonresident deer license sold.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** Under this proposal, land within a hunting preserve could not be classified as a windbreak, wildlife habitat, or filter strip. Land in these classifications is assessed for property tax purposes at \$1 per acre. If any parcel of land within a hunting preserve is currently classified as a windbreak, wildlife habitat, or filter strip then the assessment would return to its normal value. This increase in assessed value would cause a shift of the property tax burden from all taxpayers to the taxpayer who owns the habitat.

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

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** Division of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources, (317) 232-4080.