

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Requested by Legislative Council**  
**01/14/2015**

Revised  
 Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1252

- 1 A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2013-2015 Biennium		2015-2017 Biennium		2017-2019 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
<b>Revenues</b>						
<b>Expenditures</b>				\$50,000		
<b>Appropriations</b>				\$50,000		

- 1 B. **County, city, school district and township fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

	2013-2015 Biennium	2015-2017 Biennium	2017-2019 Biennium
<b>Counties</b>			
<b>Cities</b>			
<b>School Districts</b>			
<b>Townships</b>			

- 2 A. **Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

Change nonresident waterfowl licenses by adding three periods of 5 consecutive days each.

- B. **Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

The bill amendment has an effect on expenditures because it will require programming changes to the Game and Fish online licensing system.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

- A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

None anticipated.

- B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

The proposed bill requires programming changes to the Game and Fish online licensing system. The bill would also allow for two 7-day periods OR three 5-day periods. This will add some additional complexity to the programming. We estimate the programming changes to cost the department approx. \$50,000.

- C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation or a part of the appropriation is included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

This bill creates a one-time cost for programming changes of approx. \$50,000 as an increase in expenditures to the Operating line.

**Name:** Kim Kary

**Agency:** ND Game and Fish Dept

**Telephone:** 328-6605

**Date Prepared:** 01/19/2015

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The proposed bill requires programming changes to the Game and Fish online licensing system. We would need to add a third zone. The bill would also allow for two 14-day periods OR three 5-day periods. This will add some additional complexity to the programming. We estimate the programming changes to cost the department approx. \$50,000.

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**2015 HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**HB 1252**

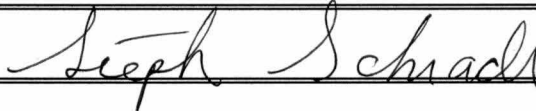
# 2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Energy and Natural Resources Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB1252  
2/5/2015  
Job #23308

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



### Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to nonresident waterfowl licenses.

### Minutes:

Attachments 1

Chairman Porter opens hearing.

Representative Jerry Kelsh, District 26

I represent no one but myself and the small communities across North Dakota that benefit considerable by having out of state hunters come in. Instead of having two seven day periods for out of state water fowl hunters it would make three five day periods. Much of the interest in the state for waterfowl hunting comes form out of state residents. According to Game and Fish there are almost as many non-resident waterfowl licenses issued as resident.

### Opposition:

Sandy Barnes, North Dakota Sportsman Alliance

Actually, there were twice as many waterfowl licenses for non-residents as there were for residents. We see the impact non-residents have, but I don't think one day makes a difference. We do not support this bill.

Mike Donahue, North Dakota Wildlife Federation

We'd like to see you give this a unanimous Do Not Pass.

Mike Jensen, Outdoor Promotions Manager-Department of Commerce, Tourism Division  
Written Testimony #1

Chairman Porter: We have heard these types of bills for a lot of years. We think as a state and as a policy making branch of government that we've struck a balance. Currently, the residents that hunt waterfowl don't like the current system. They want it to be more biologically based, more based upon percentage of numbers, they want it to be like South Dakota. The non-residents want it to be wide open, so that they can pick and choose and



come here, zoom in and zoom out. We're responsible for choosing that balance, we think that we have the balance. It really isn't about tourism; it's not about the concerns of the non-resident hunters. It's about the balance; we have to hear both sides. What do we tell the resident hunters if we do it your way and have it wide open?

Jensen: I don't advocate having it wide open; I don't think having three five day seasons is opening it wide open. This is not a resource that is threatened right now. I feel that there is a tourism opportunity, which is why I chose to give testimony.

Chairman Porter: South Dakota has a system that has a very limited lottery, has an ultra-protective resident system in place, that very few people can hunt waterfowl in South Dakota. We invite everyone to come to North Dakota and hunt. Our season for ducks, if it even happens, because of the species leaving fast, the birds staying in Canada longer because of the crops they're planting up there. Basically this bill opens up the entire duck season to non-residents. Where currently they have two weekends. So, really what the bill says is that non-residents get our entire duck season. What do we tell our residents when everything is leased up because the big money comes in?

Jensen: Having non-resident coming at 192 dollars a day that keeps the small towns open. The areas that don't have the oil and gas industry rely on this tourism for income.

Larry Knoblich, Jamestown resident

I've been a lifelong member of the hunting community. We have enough hunting days for non-residents. When non-resident hunters come to my home town, Ashly, they bring as much supplies as they can from they're home state. I don't see how adding one day to the season is going to help tourism.

Chairman Porter closes hearing.

Chairman Porter: Committee, we have HB1252.

Rep. Glen Froseth: I move a Do not Pass.

Rep. George Keiser: Second.

Vote: Yes 13, No 0, Absent 0.

Carrier: Rep. Mike Lefor.

Date: 2/15/15  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1252

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation:  Adopt Amendment  
 Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Without Committee Recommendation  
 As Amended  Rerefer to Appropriations  
 Place on Consent Calendar  
Other Actions:  Reconsider  \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Rep Froseth Seconded By Rep Keiser

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Porter	✓		Rep Hunskor	✓	
Vice Chairman Damschen	✓		Rep Mock	✓	
Rep D Anderson	✓		Rep Muscha	✓	
Rep Brabandt	✓				
Rep Devlin	✓				
Rep Froseth	✓				
Rep Hofstad	✓				
Rep Keiser	✓				
Rep Lefor	✓				
Rep Nathe	✓				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep Lefor

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1252: Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Porter, Chairman)**  
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).  
HB 1252 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

**2015 TESTIMONY**

**HB 1252**

# 1

2/5/15

1252

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, TOURISM DIVISION TESTIMONY ON HB 1252**

**FEBRUARY 5TH, 2015, 9:00 A.M.**

**HOUSE ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**PIONEER ROOM**

**REPRESENTATIVE PORTER, CHAIRMAN**

Good Morning Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, for the record my name is Mike Jensen and I am the Outdoor Promotions Manager representing the Department of Commerce, Tourism Division.

I am here to provide neutral testimony on HB 1252 and some insight on what we are seeing at ND Tourism.

Research shows that outdoor recreation is the top reason people choose to make trips to North Dakota. Hunting and Fishing continues to be a niche market can be counted on year after year to produce thousands of trips and millions of dollars of economic impact. In fact, our latest visitor study shows that 6% of overnight marketable trips were motivated by hunting.

Waterfowl hunting is one niche market that has growth potential for tourism in North Dakota, our prairie potholes provide quality hunts, strong waterfowl populations and the lack of a waterfowl lottery makes ND very attractive to traveling waterfowl hunters.

Unlike other wildlife populations, goose and duck populations are doing very well. Duck counts have been up the last couple of years. Additionally, recent surveys have shown ideal wintering conditions that have led to 187,000 birds remaining in the state that may cause depredation concerns among Ag producers.

Even with populations doing well, non-resident waterfowl license sales have been relatively flat the last couple of years. Unlike the non-resident small game license, state law limits non-residents to a single 14 day waterfowl license. You may want to consider the economic impact of another weekend of non-resident waterfowl hunters. The latest NDSU Game & Fish study shows expenditures of non-resident bird hunters at \$192 per day and an average of 5 days in the field. (*Resident and Non-resident Hunter and Angler Expenditures, Characteristics, and Economic Effects, North Dakota 2011*)

Nonresident license income is significant. A nonresident pays \$122 per person for a zoned waterfowl license or \$172 for a statewide license. That's just for waterfowl, if they want to hunt small game, big game or non-game is it hundreds of dollars more. As a resident, I pay a total of \$51 dollars for resident combination license that includes Small game, waterfowl, fishing, furbearer and the general game & habitat. Over 24,000 Non-residents purchasing waterfowl licenses now outnumber resident waterfowl hunters that have dropped 29% over the last decade. This bill has the potential to impact local economies as well as ND Game & Fish through increased license sales.

What I am hearing while exhibiting at out-of-state sport and travel shows from the sportsmen and women is that an additional weekend of waterfowl hunting may give the more freedom to pursue geese or may get them to come and hunt pheasants later in the season, hopefully reducing the rush of early season pheasant hunters. I have not tracked the number of specific questions about a longer waterfowl season, but can tell you I have been asked at every sport and travel show I attend when North Dakota will provide additional days to waterfowlers.

Tourism relies on Game & Fish Department, Department of Agriculture and the Legislature's expertise to set bag limits, season dates, license fees and to identify potential negative wildlife impact to Ag producers and the public that may be managed by adjusting hunting restrictions. I am not a wildlife biologist or an expert on waterfowl management, but I do speak to thousands of non-resident hunters each year and wanted to provide tourism industry input on non-resident waterfowl hunting.

I would be happy to stand for questions from the committee.