

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Requested by Legislative Council**  
**01/18/2019**

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2315

- 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.*

|                       | 2017-2019 Biennium |             | 2019-2021 Biennium |             | 2021-2023 Biennium |             |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
|                       | General Fund       | Other Funds | General Fund       | Other Funds | General Fund       | Other Funds |
| <b>Revenues</b>       |                    |             |                    | \$0         |                    | \$0         |
| <b>Expenditures</b>   |                    |             |                    | \$1,142,000 |                    | \$892,000   |
| <b>Appropriations</b> |                    |             |                    | \$1,142,000 |                    | \$892,000   |

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

|                         | 2017-2019 Biennium | 2019-2021 Biennium | 2021-2023 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).*

This bill creates and enacts a section of the NDCC relating to identifying private land open to hunters, amends and reenacts sections relating to criminal trespass and hunting on private land and repeals a section relating to posting land and penalties.

- 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.*

Section 5 of the bill requires the Dept. to create a publicly accessible application to be used by persons legally entitled to grant hunting permission to identify private lands open to hunting and present this information in an electronic format. This would require IT programming to develop a records management system, a mapping application to present the information electronically and the need for six (6) additional FTE. The proposed bill has a potential negative effect on revenue.

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.*

The effect on revenue is unknown. However, we anticipate the loss of huntable acres of unposted lands to be greater than our current available PLOTS acres. Additionally, we expect this bill to sever some landowner/lessee and hunter relationships due to the difficulty in establishing contact. Surveys show hunting access is a top issue for hunters. We conclude that any reduction in hunting access will contribute to loss of hunter participation and align ND with the nationwide decline in hunting participation.

- 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 state of North Dakota has approximately 38 million acres of private lands. If 2.5% of landowners sought to open hunting access to their land, we estimate this to result in approx. 950,000 acres. The Dept. currently administers

approx. 768,000 acres annually in the Private Land Open to Sportsmen program (PLOTS). Private lands staff administer 200-500 PLOTS agreements per employee annually. We estimate that one staff could administer a maximum of 500 posting agreements annually. PLOTS agreements average approx. 300 acres per agreement. We estimate that 950,000 acres could result in 3,166 posting agreements. Based on the above, we will need approx. \$892,000 for six (6) additional FTE to administer landowners participating in posting agreements.

IT costs: We estimate it will cost approx. \$250K to construct a records management system and provide a mobile application to display the information. This does not provide an authentication solution to verify the landowner, lessee, partnership (trust, life estate, LLC/LLP). Total expenditures for 2019-21 is \$1,142,000.

- 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.*

Increase appropriation for Salaries line \$892,000 and Operating line \$250,000. The salaries amount includes a request for six (6) New FTE.

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