



Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Testimony on SB 2118

North Dakota Game and Fish Department  
Scott Winkelman, Chief Game Warden  
January 21, 2021

Chairman Kreun, Vice Chairman Roers and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Scott Winkelman, Chief Game Warden of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. I am testifying today in support of SB 2118.

SB 2118 amends and reenacts two sections of law relating to fines for game and fish violations. Current law states that certain game and fish violations that are designated as a noncriminal offense may pay a fee of fifty dollars for any class 1 noncriminal offense and a fee of twenty-five dollars for any class 2 noncriminal offense. These fees have been in existence since 1985 and do not reflect the inflation level to today's economic value. In several instances the current fees for noncriminal violations are less than the associated license, registration, or wildlife value. The current fees of twenty-five and fifty dollars are also inconsistent with other noncriminal statutory fees for other state cabinet agencies. All the fees that are collected under these laws are paid into the treasury of the proper county to be added to the state school fund and are not paid to or collected by the Game and Fish Department.

If passed this would change the word fee to fine and increase the amount of statutory fines for game and fish noncriminal violations to one hundred dollars for a class 1 noncriminal violation and fifty dollars for a class 2 noncriminal violation. These changes would also make game and fish noncriminal fine amounts consistent with the noncriminal fine amounts for other state agency laws.

The Department respectfully requests a DO PASS on SB 2118.