

**STATE  
FISCAL IMPACT**

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<b>Drafting Number:</b> LLS 12-0788	<b>Date:</b> February 27, 2012
<b>Prime Sponsor(s):</b> Rep. Sonnenberg Sen. Schwartz	<b>Bill Status:</b> House Agriculture
	<b>Fiscal Analyst:</b> Lauren Ris (303-866-3264)

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**TITLE:** CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION TO REPLACE THE PARKS AND WILDLIFE BOARD IN THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, DESCRIBING THE COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF THE COMMISSION.

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>	<b>FY 2012-2013</b>	<b>FY 2013-2014</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>		
Cash Funds		
Wildlife Cash Fund	(\$33,655)	
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Effective Date:</b> Upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.		
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2012-2013:</b> See Appropriations Section.		
<b>Local Government Impact:</b> None.		

**Summary of Legislation**

The bill replaces the Parks and Wildlife Board in the Department of Natural Resources with the Parks and Wildlife Commission. The commission is comprised of 11 voting members to be appointed by the Governor and two nonvoting ex officio members — the Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources and the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture. The bill specifies that the appointed members must represent various geographical regions in the state and certain areas of interest or knowledge. Initial term lengths are staggered to reduce the impact to the board that results from member turnover. The commission is required to meet at least monthly and must submit a five-year strategic plan by December 31, 2013. For every year that is included in the strategic plan, the commission is required to submit an annual report to the House Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Energy Committee.

**Background**

In 2011, Senate Bill 11-208 combined the Division of Wildlife and the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation to form the Division of Parks and Wildlife. In so doing, the existing Wildlife Commission was merged with the existing Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation to form the 16-member Parks and Wildlife Board.

## **State Expenditures**

*The bill is expected to reduce cash fund expenditures in the Department of Natural Resources by \$33,655 in FY 2012-13.* Reducing the number of board members to 13 commissioners will result in a decrease in costs for the Division of Parks and Wildlife. In FY 2010-11, the nine-member Wildlife Commission incurred a total of \$53,503 in expenses, or \$5,945 per commissioner including per diem, meals and lodging, mileage, and copies for mailing. Based on these expenses, this fiscal note assumes that the current 16-member board will incur a total of \$95,120 ( $\$5,945 \times 16$ ) in FY 2011-12.

If the new commission meets the minimum of 12 times a year as specified in the bill, at \$50 in per diem, the total per diem expenses in FY 2012-13 will be \$7,800. In FY 2010-11, each commissioner incurred an average of \$4,128 in meals and lodging, mileage, and copies. This fiscal note assumes that this number will remain fairly constant, therefore, total expenses for meals and lodging, mileage, and copies for FY 2012-13 are estimated at \$53,665 ( $\$4,128 \times 13$ ). Therefore, total expenses for FY 2012-13, including per diem, will be \$61,465, resulting in a net savings of \$33,655.

The strategic planning and reporting requirements in the bill will result in additional workload, but the division will absorb this within existing appropriations.

## **State Appropriations**

The FY 2012-13 Wildlife Cash Fund appropriation to the Department of Natural Resources will be reduced by \$33,655.

## **Departments Contacted**

Natural Resources