

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

**STATE
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 15-0887 **Date:** March 30, 2015
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Willett; Lebsock **Bill Status:** House Agriculture
Fiscal Analyst: Clare Pramuk (303-866-2677)

BILL TOPIC: BEAR CONTROL

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Increased workload and costs.	
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None.		

* This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

Summary of Legislation

This bill requires the Division of Parks and Wildlife in the Department of Natural Resources to study available tools for better management of black bear populations to address bear-human conflicts and public safety. The division will report its findings to the relevant house and senate committees by December 31, 2015.

Background

The division currently authorizes a black bear hunt from September 2 to mid-November annually. There are an estimated 16,000 to 18,000 black bears statewide. The division's annual harvest objective is 1,400 bears statewide.

State Expenditures

The study required by the bill will increase the workload and costs of the Division of Parks and Wildlife in FY 2015-16 only. Division staff will collect information on wildlife management tools and evaluate their effectiveness for the state's black bear population. This will include stakeholder meetings in areas of the state where bear-human interactions are more frequent, and some travel will be required. Division staff will compile their findings into a final report by December 31, 2015.

The fiscal note assumes that the increased workload and operating costs can be addressed with existing appropriations. If additional resources are needed, the department will submit a supplemental budget request.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 5, 2015, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2015, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Natural Resources