

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 5228H.011  
 Bill No.: HB 2202  
 Subject: Department of Conservation; Fishing and Hunting; Licenses - Miscellaneous;  
 Veterans; Tourism; Children and Minors; Animals  
 Type: Original  
 Date: February 20, 2026

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies provisions governing permits for hunting and fishing.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

**ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND**

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS**

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Conservation Commission Fund (1609) *	(More or less than \$4,976,000)	(More or less than \$4,976,000)	(More or less than \$4,976,000)
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds</b>	<b>(More or less than \$4,976,000)</b>	<b>(More or less than \$4,976,000)</b>	<b>(More or less than \$4,976,000)</b>

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

**ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS**

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Federal*	(More or less than \$3,662,000)	(More or less than \$3,662,000)	(More or less than \$3,662,000)
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds</b>	<b>(More or less than \$3,662,000)</b>	<b>(More or less than \$3,662,000)</b>	<b>(More or less than \$3,662,000)</b>

**ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)**

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

- Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.
- Estimated Net Effect (savings or increased revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.

**ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS**

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

#### §252.252 - Modifies Provisions Governing Permits for Hunting and Fishing for Veterans.

Officials from the **Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)** state that legislation introduced in 2026 would require the Department of Conservation to provide free hunting and fishing permits for veterans. This would be in addition to other state and federal benefits established for veterans and military personnel.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs there are around 377,000 veterans living in Missouri. Approximately 177,000 (45%) who are 65 or older and are exempt from the normal fishing or small game hunting permit requirement because of their age. This leaves around 200,000 veterans who may benefit from a small game and fishing permit exemption.

If the department assumes that veterans would be likely to either hunt or fish in a similar percentage to the general population, the department can estimate that approximately 113,000 (30%) of 377,000 veterans would take advantage of firearm deer hunting permits, 45,000 (12%) spring turkey hunting permit, 45,000 (12%) archery deer hunting permit, 40,000 (20% of 200,000 veterans) fishing permit and 30,000 (15% of 200,000 veterans) small game hunting permit.

### Fiscal Impact

The estimated fiscal impact on some of the most common permits:

<b>Permit Type</b>	<b>Estimated Number of Free Permits Issued to Veterans</b>	<b>Permit Cost</b>	<b>Estimated Loss of MDC Permit Revenue</b>
Fishing	40,000	\$14.00	\$560,000
Small Game Hunting	30,000	\$11.50	\$345,000
Firearm Deer Hunting	113,000	\$19.50	\$2,203,500
Spring Turkey Hunting	45,000	\$19.50	\$877,500
Archery Hunting	45,000	\$22.50	\$990,000
			<b>\$4,976,000</b>

Total negative impact to the Department in permit revenue – \$4.9 million, plus loss of federal reimbursements estimated at \$3.5 million for a conservative negative fiscal impact of approximately \$8.4 million. This does not include lost revenues from trout permits, daily trout tags, migratory bird, trapping and other permits.

Upon further inquiry, the MDC stated that federal reimbursements in this context are \$10 per fishing permit and \$14 per hunting permit.

Estimated Federal Hunting and Fishing Reimbursements to the State:

<b>Permit Type</b>	<b>Estimated Number of Free Permits Issued to Veterans</b>	<b>Federal Reimbursement Rate</b>	<b>Estimated loss of Federal Reimbursement Revenue</b>
Fishing	40,000	\$10.00	\$400,000
Small Game Hunting	30,000	\$14.00	\$420,000
Firearm Deer Hunting	113,000	\$14.00	\$1,582,000
Spring Turkey Hunting	45,000	\$14.00	\$630,000
Archery Hunting	45,000	\$14.00	\$630,000
			<b>\$3,662,000</b>

**Oversight** assumes that this proposal could cause a significant decrease in the revenue generated by the MDC. For fiscal note purposes, Oversight will reflect a (More or less than \$4,976,000) fiscal impact to the Conservation Commission Fund (1609) along with a (More or less than \$3,662,000) fiscal impact to Federal Funds due to the loss of Federal reimbursements to the MDC.

Officials from the **Department of Public Safety - Missouri Veterans Commission** and the **Missouri National Guard** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations. **Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for these agencies.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
<b>CONSERVATION COMMISSION FUND (1609)</b>			
<u>Loss – MDC (§252.252) Veteran and military personnel permit exemptions p.2</u>	(More or less than <u>\$4,976,000</u> )	(More or less than <u>\$4,976,000</u> )	(More or less than <u>\$4,976,000</u> )
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION FUND</b>	<b>(More or less than <u>\$4,976,000</u>)</b>	<b>(More or less than <u>\$4,976,000</u>)</b>	<b>(More or less than <u>\$4,976,000</u>)</b>
<b>FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
<u>Loss – MDC (§252.252) Federal reimbursements for fishing and hunting permits p.2</u>	(More or less than <u>\$3,662,000</u> )	(More or less than <u>\$3,662,000</u> )	(More or less than <u>\$3,662,000</u> )
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>	<b>(More or less than <u>\$3,662,000</u>)</b>	<b>(More or less than <u>\$3,662,000</u>)</b>	<b>(More or less than <u>\$3,662,000</u>)</b>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

There would be a fiscal impact on small businesses that sell Missouri Department of Conservation permits, due to decrease in the amount of service fees collected, which would be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires the Conservation Commission to:

- (1) Issue free of charge hunting and fishing permits to military personnel, disabled veterans, or any eligible dependants, as defined in the bill;

- (2) Waive all fees for Missouri hunter education certification or its successor program for military personnel, disabled veterans, or an eligible dependent;
- (3) Issue a combined lifetime hunting and fishing permit to military personnel or disabled veterans or certain surviving spouses of military personnel or disabled veterans; and
- (4) Issue free of charge any deer hunting permit that is valid for the youth portions of the deer season to an eligible dependant whose age qualifies him or her for a youth deer hunting permit.

The Commission must establish the identity and eligibility of any individual seeking a permit or waiver of fees under the bill.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Missouri Department of Conservation  
Missouri Veterans Commission  
Missouri National Guard



Julie Morff  
Director  
February 20, 2026



Jessica Harris  
Assistant Director  
February 20, 2026