

Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB129 S1

Patron: Cornett

Bill Title: Killing of deer damaging fruit trees, crops, livestock, plants, or personal property.

Bill Summary: Directs the Department of Wildlife Resources to issue a permit upon the request of a landowner or lessee whose fruit trees, Christmas trees, crops, horticultural plants, or personal property used for commercial agriculture are damaged by antlerless deer to kill such deer without limit, and if damaged by antlered deer, to kill such deer in a limited number as determined by the Department. Such permits would expire on December 31 of each year and would be reissued upon request accompanied by a report of the previous year's kill and affirmation of ongoing commercial agricultural activity. The Department may also issue a permit to kill a limited number of antlered deer causing damage to residential plants.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: None

Explanation: This bill involves the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR); however, no budget action is needed.

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that any fiscal impacts can be absorbed by DWR within existing appropriations.

Fiscal Analysis: The bill directs the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) to issue permits to kill deer damaging commercial agricultural crops and equipment and allows permits to be issued to kill deer damaging residential plants. According to the agency, it is anticipated that any fiscal impact resulting from this bill can be absorbed within existing resources.

Violators of these provisions are guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor. A Class 3 misdemeanor is punishable by a fine of up to \$500. These offenses carry no jail time. All revenue collected from such fines is deposited into the Literary Fund. However, it is not possible to estimate either the number of convictions that may result or the amount of each fine that may be assessed under this legislation. Therefore, the impact of this bill cannot be determined.

Other: None.