



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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November 5, 2001

TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Assembly Bill 588: Funding of Snowmobile Enforcement Wardens

Under AB 588, the funding for two conservation wardens for snowmobile enforcement would be transferred from conservation fund SEG to tribal gaming program revenues.

BACKGROUND

Prior to 1997 Act 27, 4.5 conservation wardens and a half-time program assistant were funded from the snowmobile account of the conservation fund. That act converted the funding of these 5.0 positions to GPR. Subsequently, 1997 Act 237 provided one warden position funded from the snowmobile account. That act also provided DNR with 17.0 GPR supported conservation wardens. Under 1999 Act 9, the six snowmobile enforcement positions were transferred (five GPR and one SEG) to tribal gaming program revenue allocations. Under 2001 Act 16, the 2001-03 biennial budget, four of the GPR wardens provided in 1997 Act 237 were transferred to the conservation fund (\$133,200 GPR annually and 2.0 positions to the snowmobile account and \$120,600 and 2.0 positions to the all-terrain vehicle account).

SUMMARY OF BILL

AB 588 would transfer \$133,200 SEG and 2.0 conservation wardens annually from the snowmobile account to tribal gaming program revenue allocations. The two wardens would continue to be dedicated to snowmobile enforcement (rather than general enforcement duties prior to 2001 Act 16).

FISCAL EFFECT

AB 588 would transfer the cost of two snowmobile enforcement positions from snowmobile SEG to tribal gaming compact program revenues. Under 2001 Act 16, allocations of tribal gaming revenue total \$51,266,800 in the 2001-03 biennium (\$24,027,400 in 2001-02 and \$27,239,400 in 2002-03). The estimated amount of tribal gaming revenue available in the biennium totals \$52,202,100. At this time, then, \$935,300 in estimated tribal gaming revenue is unallocated and would be available for other purposes. If the provisions of AB 588 were enacted, \$266,400 would be allocated for conservation wardens in the 2001-03 biennium, reducing the unallocated balance of tribal gaming revenue to \$668,900. The segregated funds currently allocated to support the two conservation wardens would remain as a balance in the snowmobile account of the conservation fund under the bill, resulting in a projected June 30, 2003, balance of approximately \$500,000.

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