



## Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DNR 7/10/2017

LRB Number	17-3723/1	Introduction Number	AB-0416	Estimate Type	Original
<b>Description</b> a higher wild animal protection surcharge for the unlawful taking of deer					

### Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, a court may impose a wild animal protection surcharge against a defendant if the court imposes a fine or forfeiture for a violation of Chapter 29 or an order/rule promulgated thereunder related to the unlawful killing, wounding, catching, taking, trapping, or possession of a white-tailed deer (among other species). The current statutorily assigned surcharge for white-tailed deer is \$43.75.

This bill proposes to create new special surcharge categories for an unlawfully taken white-tailed deer if the animal falls within certain "exceptional" size categories; this concept is commonly referred to as a trophy surcharge.

Revenue from the wild animal protection surcharge is deposited into the Fish and Wildlife Account of the Conservation Fund; however, the Department does not presently index surcharge deposits by species type, nor does it track the size of illegal animals for which the surcharge is imposed under existing law as the current law surcharge value remains static for animals of all sizes within a species. The department cannot estimate the revenue impact of this proposal's surcharge modifications with significant statistical confidence.

While the bill's proposed surcharges, if imposed by courts, have potential to increase revenues, the competing deterrent effect that would reduce illegal harvest, in combination with the unknown number of illegal animals currently seized that fall within the "trophy" ranges, make the overall fiscal revenue indeterminate.

### Long-Range Fiscal Implications