

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DNR 9/28/2015

LRB Number	15-2659/1	Introduction Number	AB-0336	Estimate Type	Original
Description Trolling permits issued to persons whose sight is impaired					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The bill requires the Department to issue a trolling permit to a person who produces a certificate from a licensed physician or optometrist stating that his or her sight is impaired to the degree that he or she cannot read newspaper print with or without glasses.

Trolling means fishing by trailing any lure, bait, or similar device that may be used to attract or catch fish from a boat propelled by a means other than drifting, pedalling, paddling, or rowing. Currently, trolling is allowed on all inland waters with at least one hook, bait, or lure, but the administrative code allowing that will sunset in early 2018. Although the Department of Natural Resources will be assessing data and getting public input on a potential new trolling rule, this legislation would ensure that a sight impaired person may obtain a permit to troll in any waterbody using an electric motor.

The Department already issues trolling permits to persons who have an amputation or other loss of an arm or who have a permanent, substantial loss of function in one or both arms or hands. This bill would require a revision to the Department's Disabled Permit Application, website, and manual. It may increase the number of free trolling permits issued, but would likely not add significantly to customer service staff workload.

Any expansion of trolling authorization may result in additional calls to the Department's violations hotline and an indeterminate increase in workload for wardens to investigate those calls. However, because current administrative code permits trolling for all individuals statewide, the Department does not anticipate any costs as a result of this proposal.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications