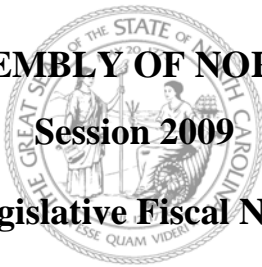


**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**



**Session 2009**

**Legislative Fiscal Note**

**BILL NUMBER:** Senate Bill 1009 (First Edition)

**SHORT TITLE:** Hunting License Exemption for Special Events.

**SPONSOR(S):** Senator Swindell

<b>FISCAL IMPACT</b>					
	<b>Yes (X)</b>	<b>No ( )</b>	<b>No Estimate Available ( )</b>		
	<b><u>FY 2009-10</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2010-11</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2011-12</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2012-13</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2013-14</u></b>
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Wildlife Resources					
Commission		<b>**** See Assumptions and Methodology ****</b>			
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
Wildlife Resources					
Commission	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>POSITIONS (cumulative):</b>					
Wildlife Resources					
Commission	0	0	0	0	0
<b>PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) &amp; PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:</b>					
Wildlife Resources Commission					
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> October 1, 2009					

**BILL SUMMARY:**

S.B. 1009 amends GS 113-276(n) to expand the authority of the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) to grant exemptions to licensing requirements. Under current law, WRC is authorized to grant exemptions from fishing license requirements for certain fishing events. S.B. 1009 adds language that authorizes WRC to grant exemptions to a variety of hunting and fishing license requirements for organized events when the event is consistent with the conservation objectives of WRC. The bill requires that exempt individuals comply with any requirements applicable to a license holder, including reporting requirements and purchasing waterfowl stamps if appropriate, and requires compliance with statutory safety requirements or be accompanied by a licensed adult  
*Source: Bill Digest S.B. 1009 (03/26/0200).*

## **ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:**

While S.B. 1009 will have a fiscal impact – it will exempt participants in select special events from the requirement of purchasing hunting and fishing licenses – the fiscal impact of S.B. 1009 cannot be accurately estimated. The intention of many special events is to introduce individuals to the sports of hunting and fishing. Such introductions should, in theory, lead to additional license purchases as new hunters are recruited, making the one time, short-term exemption worthwhile over the longer term. Consequently, the fiscal impact of S.B. 1009 is unknown.

The concept of the exemption is based on the fact that requiring a hunting or fishing license for short term events (4-8 hours) that are designed to introduce individuals to hunting or fishing actually discourages participation in the event. Waiving the license requirements for the duration of the event should encourage participation. This, in turn, should attract participants and, hopefully, recruitment them to become life-long hunting and fishing license buyers.

Fishing events received an exemption in 2005 (S.L. 2005-455). WRC began issuing fishing license waivers in 2007; they issued 17 waivers in 2007 and 32 waivers in 2008. To date, WRC has issued 20 waivers for 2009. However, while the number of event waivers is known, there is not an accurate estimate of the number of short-term licenses purchases forgone due to the exemption or the number of fishing licenses purchased as a result of the exempted event.

Sample fishing events that have received exemptions include:

- Warriors on the Water – an event that recognizes military veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq;
- Wounded Warriors – similar to above but specifically designed for wounded veterans;
- Casting for Recovery – an event for recovering breast cancer patients;
- Youth Fishing Events;
- Boys and Girls Club Events;
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Events; and
- Scouting program events.

In many of these events, participating individuals are being introduced to fishing for the first time. The same theory would apply to hunting events. Sample hunting events that could be eligible for the exemption proposed in S.B. 1009 include:

- Youth mentor days in which unlicensed parents, who are not currently hunters, accompany a youth hunting with another adult who is licensed (the unlicensed parent would be exempted in this example).
- Special hunts that are supported by WRC but organized primarily by non-governmental organizations (Ducks Unlimited, Outdoor Dream Foundation, etc.) in which disabled or terminally-ill persons who are over 16 years of age participate.
- Special hunts by groups endorsed by WRC (for example, the Wounded Warriors).

In addition to lowering the cost to participate in events to learn about hunting and fishing, S.B. 1009 makes WRC licensure policies consistent regarding how WRC manages similar fishing and hunting opportunities. According to WRC, S.B. 1009 will provide opportunities for hunters in unique situations, expand WRC's ability to meet the needs of all citizens in North Carolina, and WRC recruit and retain hunters.

Consequently, the fiscal impact of this bill cannot be accurately estimated. The exemptions are designed to attract new hunters and angler by introducing them to these sports. The one time, short-term licenses exemption will result in forgone license revenue for WRC. However, WRC expects that forgone revenue to be exceeded by revenue from new license purchases made by new hunters and fishermen recruited through these special events.

**SOURCES OF DATA:**

Wildlife Resources Commission

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:** None

**FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION:** (919) 733-4910

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Fiscal Research Division

**DATE:** May 4, 2009



**Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices**