



# SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

## STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT

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*This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.*

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<b>Bill Number:</b>	H. 4820	Signed by Governor on July 2, 2024
<b>Author:</b>	Forrest	
<b>Subject:</b>	Turkey Season	
<b>Requestor:</b>	House of Representatives	
<b>RFA Analyst(s):</b>	Miller	
<b>Impact Date:</b>	August 13, 2024	

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### Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill specifies turkey season will be from April 3<sup>rd</sup> through May 3<sup>rd</sup> for all game zones in the state, sets the male wild turkey season bag limit to two statewide, prohibits the harvest of juvenile male wild turkeys, adds a second youth turkey hunting weekend following the close of the regular turkey season, and increases the fee for a set of turkey tags for residents from \$5 to \$25 and from \$100 to \$125 for nonresidents. Currently, turkey season varies between the four game zones within the state, and the male wild turkey bag limit for residents is three statewide. This bill creates a slightly shorter and uniform turkey season across the state and decreases the male wild turkey bag limit by one turkey for residents. The provisions of this bill will expire four years after the effective date.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) indicates it can manage any administrative costs associated with enacting this bill within existing resources and current appropriations.

This bill will result in an undetermined increase in Other Funds revenue due to the \$20 increase in the fee for a set of turkey tags for residents and a \$25 increase in the fee for nonresidents. However, the increase in fee is likely to create some level of buyer resistance and that along with the reduction in the bag limit and shorter turkey hunting season may result in fewer purchases of wild turkey tag sets.

### Explanation of Fiscal Impact

#### Signed by Governor on July 2, 2024

##### State Expenditure

This bill specifies turkey season will be from April 3<sup>rd</sup> through May 3<sup>rd</sup> for all game zones in the state, sets the male wild turkey season bag limit to two statewide, prohibits the harvest of juvenile male wild turkeys, adds a second youth turkey hunting weekend following the close of the regular turkey season, and increases the fee for a set of turkey tags for residents from \$5 to \$25 and from \$100 to \$125 for nonresidents. Currently, turkey season is April 1 through May 10 in Game Zones 1 and 2 and March 22 through April 30 in Game Zones 3 and 4, and the male wild turkey bag limit for residents is three statewide. This bill creates a slightly shorter and uniform turkey season across the state and decreases the male wild turkey bag limit by one turkey for residents. The provisions of this bill will expire four years after the effective date.

DNR indicates it can manage any administrative costs associated with enacting this bill within existing resources and current appropriations.

### **State Revenue**

This bill decreases the male wild turkey bag limit by one for residents, prohibits the harvest of juvenile male turkeys, and increases the fee for a set of turkey tags for residents from \$5 to \$25 and from \$100 to \$125 for nonresidents among other changes. Currently, turkey tags are sold as a set of three for residents for \$5, a set of two for \$100 for nonresidents, and provided at no cost to persons under the age of sixteen, lifetime licensees, and gratis licensees upon request. The revenue for these turkey tags is deposited into the Fish & Wildlife Protection Fund Turkey account, minus \$1 per set retained by the license sales vendor. For reference, in FY 2022-23, DNR issued 51,717 sets of turkey tags to residents, 39,682 free sets of tags to persons under the age of sixteen, lifetime licensees, or gratis licensees, and 4,144 sets to nonresidents. This bill will require the set of turkey tags sold to residents to include only two tags.

Given the increase in the fee for a set of turkey tags for both resident and nonresident hunters, this bill may result in an increase in revenue generated from the sales of turkey tags. There will be an increase of \$20 for each turkey tag set sold to residents and a \$25 increase for each turkey tag set sold to nonresidents. However, the increase in fee is likely to create some level of buyer resistance and that along with the reduction in bag limit and shorter turkey hunting season may result in fewer purchases of wild turkey tag sets. Therefore, the Other Funds revenue increase due to this bill is undetermined.

### **Local Expenditure**

N/A

### **Local Revenue**

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director