

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. NO.: 2825-01
BILL NO.: HB 1143
SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources; Senior Environmental Corps
TYPE: Original
DATE: January 18, 2000

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
General Revenue Fund	Unknown	(\$95,520) to (Unknown)	(\$83,939) to (Unknown)
Conservation Fund	\$0	(Unknown)	(Unknown)
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> State Funds	Unknown	(\$95,520) to (Unknown)	(\$83,939) to (Unknown)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
None	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses
This fiscal note contains 5 pages.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

The **Office of the Attorney General** assumes the duties to execute a written master agreement for volunteers can be accomplished with existing resources.

The **Department of Economic Development (DED)** assumes that the cost of representation on the committee would be absorbed with existing funds and that there would be no fiscal impact.

The **Department of Conservation (MDC)** assumes this proposal requires the MDC to participate in the administration and implementation of the corps so there would be some fiscal impact. The MDC estimates the impact of this proposal would be less than \$ 100,000 annually.

The **Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** assumes the proposed legislation creates within the DNR a Senior Environmental Corps. The DNR, MDC, and the DED will participate in the administration and implementation of the corps. In addition, they will appoint representatives to the corps coordinating council.

The DNR assumes the council will establish policies; define standards for projects; evaluate and select projects; develop recruitment, training and placement procedures; receive and review project status and completion reports; and provide for recognition of volunteer activity. In addition, the council will advise the DNR on distribution of available funding for corp activities.

Contingent upon available funding, the proposed legislation requires the DNR provide a coordinator and support staff to the council. The DNR would need a planner and a clerical person to develop and allocate available funds; write a volunteer agreement; collect and maintain project and volunteer records; provide reports to the state legislature and the council as requested; develop project proposals; administer project activities within the agency; develop appropriate procedures for the use of volunteers; maintain project records and provide project reports; apply for and accept grants or contributions for corp approved projects; and enter into cooperative agreements with federal, state and local agencies to carry out corp approved projects.

The council will also need funding to provide support to the agencies for recruitment of volunteers; provide agency project managers and volunteers with orientation to the corp program and training in the use of volunteers; act as a liaison with and provide information to other states and jurisdictions on the corps program and program activities; provide project orientation,

ASSUMPTION (continued)

technical training, safety training, equipment and supplies to carry out project activities. The department is unable to determine the full cost of these activities.

The senior volunteers will not receive any salary compensation for the services that they provide, except they are entitled to any expense or other benefits such as mileage, lodging, state workers' compensation coverage, uniforms or other clothing or supplies. The department assumes that the expense and equipment standard for these volunteers would be approximately one quarter of the normal expense and equipment. Since the number of senior volunteers is unknown, the total cost of these expenses is also unknown.

The number of senior volunteers that may be recruited to participate in this program is unknown. Therefore, the full fiscal impact of this legislation is unknown.

The department would request general revenue to cover the cost to implement this legislation until sufficient grants or contributions could be obtained to support the staff and the expenditures of the Senior Environmental Corp.

Oversight assumes the number of volunteers that would participate in the program is unknown, the type or location of work the volunteers would perform is unknown, and the resources required by the volunteers is unknown. Oversight also assumes the income generated through grants, contributions or cooperative agreements is unknown. Accordingly, Oversight assumes the total cost to the state agencies participating in the Senior Environmental Corps program is unknown.

DNR has requested a Planner III for FY 2002 and FY 2003 with a salary of \$48,413 and \$49,623, respectively. Additionally, DNR has requested a Clerk Typist III for FY 2002 and FY 2003 with a salary of \$23,286 and \$23,868, respectively. Oversight has reduced the annual salaries to reflect a more reasonable starting salary for the positions indicated. Oversight also adjusted DNR's costs in reference to Expense and Equipment to bring them in line with Office of Administration guidelines.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2001 (10 Mo.)	FY 2002	FY 2003
GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
<u>Income - Department of Natural Resources</u>			
Grants or Contributions	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u> (continued)	FY 2001 (10 Mo.)	FY 2002	FY 2003

Costs - Department of Natural Resources

Personal Service - (2 FTE)	\$0	(\$57,566)	(\$59,005)
Fringe Benefits	0	(\$17,702)	(\$18,144)
Expense and Equipment	0	(\$20,252)	(\$6,790)
	\$0	(\$95,520)	(\$83,939)

Other Costs - Department of Economic Development
 or Department of Natural Resources

Volunteer Project Expenses	\$0	(Unknown)	(Unknown)
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Estimated Net Effect on **(\$95,520) to (\$83,939) to**
GENERAL REVENUE FUND **Unknown (Unknown) (Unknown)**

CONSERVATION FUND

Costs - Department of Conservation

Volunteer Project Expenses	\$0	(Unknown)	(Unknown)
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<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
	(10 Mo.)		
	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

DESCRIPTION

This bill establishes a Senior Environmental Corps to provide opportunities for volunteers at least 55 years old to work on projects related to natural and recreational resources. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will establish and provide staff support for a coordinating council to select and monitor corps projects and to develop policies, project

DESCRIPTION (continued)

standards, and recruitment and training procedures. The council will include members appointed

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by DNR, the Department of Conservation, and the Department of Economic Development.

DNR may seek grants, contributions, and cooperative agreements with federal, state, and local agencies for corps projects. All work must be performed in accordance with a master agreement approved by the council and the Attorney General. The agreement will describe work duties, required training, and expense reimbursement and other benefits. Corps volunteers cannot be used to displace current employees or to carry out enforcement activities.

The bill also prohibits use of state funds to train, equip, compensate, or reward any person, other than state employees, to carry out enforcement activities or to act in any regulatory manner on behalf of DNR, the Department of Conservation, or the Department of Economic Development.

This legislation is not federally mandated and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space, but could duplicate an existing program. The MDC noted there is a federal program called Senior Corps that is very similar to this proposal. However, it allows senior volunteers to work at other jobs besides the DNR. It is administered by the Corporation for National Services. This is the same program that provides DED funding to administer the AmeriCorps Program. There is a Senior Corps office in Kansas City.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Conservation
Department of Economic Development
Department of Natural Resources
Office of the Attorney General



Jeanne Jarrett, CPA
Director
January 18, 2000