

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2015

## Legislative Fiscal Note

**BILL NUMBER:** House Bill 736 (First Edition)  
**SHORT TITLE:** NC Am. Indian Hunting/Fishing Rights.  
**SPONSOR(S):** Representatives C. Graham, Lucas, and Pierce

<b>FISCAL IMPACT</b>					
(\$ in millions)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> No Estimate Available		
<b>State Impact</b>	<b>FY 2015-16</b>	<b>FY 2016-17</b>	<b>FY 2017-18</b>	<b>FY 2018-19</b>	<b>FY 2019-20</b>
Special Fund Revenues:	(\$0.29) to (\$0.48)	(\$0.29) to (\$0.48)	(\$0.29) to (\$0.48)	(\$0.29) to (\$0.48)	(\$0.29) to (\$0.48)
Special Fund Expenditures:	to	to	to	to	to
State Positions:	to	to	to	to	to
<b>NET STATE IMPACT</b>	<b>(\$0.29) to (\$0.48)</b>	<b>(\$0.29) to (\$0.48)</b>	<b>(\$0.29) to (\$0.48)</b>	<b>(\$0.29) to (\$0.48)</b>	<b>(\$0.29) to (\$0.48)</b>

**PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:** NC Wildlife Resource Commission  
**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This bill is effective October 15, 2015.  
**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:** Yes

**BILL SUMMARY:**

The bill exempts North Carolina Native Americans from purchasing and carrying a license issued by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) for hunting, trapping or fishing under Article 21 of Chapter 113. A NC Native American who takes advantage of this exemption is required possess and produce proper identification confirming the person’s membership in a State-recognized tribe or in the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation upon the request of a wildlife enforcement officer.

**ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:**

The fiscal impact on license revenue collections of exempting NC Native Americans from purchasing hunting, trapping or fishing licenses depends on the number of NC Native Americans who purchase these license types on an annual basis. This number is unknown with any certainty.

The WRC collects information on the race of its license holders. However, the submission of this information is strictly voluntary and is not required to purchase a license. In any given year, only 33% of license holders voluntarily supply this information. As a result, WRC does not know the race of 67% of its license holders.

There is not a reasonable basis on which to determine whether NC Native Americans are more or less likely than people of any other race to voluntarily supply information about their race on the license application. As a result, this memo assumes that the race of the 67% of non-responding license holders looks similar to the race of the 33% of license holders who voluntarily submitted their information. In other words, this note will use the data that WRC does have on 33% of its licenses holders and assume that the remaining 67% are of same race and in the same proportions.

North Carolina Native Americans Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Licenses				
License Category	Known Sales (3 year average)		Assumed Sales	
	count	sales	count	sales
Hunting Only	510	\$ 10,267	1,530	\$ 30,801
Hunting/Inland Combinations	2,204	\$ 86,537	6,612	\$ 259,611
Inland Fishing Only	2,149	\$ 32,115	6,447	\$ 96,345
Trapping Only	14	\$ 290	42	\$ 870
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,878</b>	<b>\$ 129,209</b>	<b>14,631</b>	<b>\$ 387,627</b>

**STATE REVENUES:** Extrapolating from the known sales data for NC Native Americans, this fiscal note assumes that approximately 14,631 Native Americans will no longer be required to purchase hunting, trapping or fishing licenses issued by the WRC. This will result in fewer sales and a revenue loss to WRC of approximately \$387,627. Given the uncertainty in the race of license holders, this fiscal note provides a fiscal range of plus or minus 25% around the estimate.

**FEDERAL REVENUES:** In addition to the decrease in state funds, this bill also affects the amount of federal revenue that WRC receives as well. The US Fish and Wildlife Service uses license sales data from all 50 states to calculate the amount of federal funds each state will receive. North Carolina's portion of certain federal grant funds depends on its total license sales relative to the total licenses sales of the other 49 states. Exempting NC Native Americans from purchasing hunting, trapping, or fishing licenses will affect the amount of federal funds available to North Carolina; however, that fiscal impact is unknown because North Carolina's federal allocation is relative to other states' license sales.

**SOURCES OF DATA:** NC Wildlife Resources Commission

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:** The bill as it is currently drafted only applies to licenses issued by Wildlife Resources Commission under Article 21 of Chapter 113, including hunting, trapping, inland fishing, and combination hunting and inland fishing licenses. It does not apply to the Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL) issued under Article 14B or the unified hunting and fishing licenses issued under Article 25A which include various combinations of hunting, inland fishing and coastal fishing options. The exclusion of some of the hunting and fishing licenses may cause confusion about what type of activity is actually exempt from the license requirements. For example, an inland fishing license is exempt, but a combination inland and coastal fishing license is not.

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**DATE:** April 27, 2015

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