

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Third Reprint]

## SENATE, No. 945

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

DATED: MAY 29, 2012

#### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Imposes certain registration and reporting requirements to prevent illegal trade of tigers.
- Type of Impact:** Minimal State cost increase offset by fees.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Environmental Protection

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Year 1</u></b>	<b><u>Year 2</u></b>	<b><u>Year 3</u></b>
<b>State Cost</b>	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that there would be a minimal cost increase to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) from this bill which could be recovered from fees for permits issued by the department.
- The bill requires the establishment of a tiger permitting and accounting system to identify and systematically account for all tigers in the State.
- The bill allows the DEP to impose a reasonable fee for services rendered in connection with the department's costs in issuing, managing, maintaining, and renewing a permit.

#### BILL DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill No. 945 (3R) of 2012 would establish a tiger permitting and accounting system to be administered by the DEP in order to ensure that tigers kept in New Jersey are not entered into the illegal tiger trade. Under current New Jersey law, a person may not possess a tiger without a permit issued by the department. However, this existing permitting program does not specifically address or work to prevent the illegal use or trade of tigers or tiger parts.

The bill would establish certain mechanisms and procedures that would enable the DEP to identify and systematically account for all tigers in the State, whether living or deceased.

Among these measures would be a requirement that tiger owners register their tiger with the department by applying for and obtaining a separate permit for each tiger. The bill allows the department to impose a reasonable fee upon the owner for services rendered in connection with the department's costs in issuing, managing, maintaining, and renewing a permit.

A person who violates the bill's provisions would be subject to the penalties applicable under "The Endangered and Nongame Species Conservation Act."

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS estimates that there would be a minimal cost increase to the DEP from this bill which could be recovered from fees for permits issued by the department. The bill requires the establishment of a tiger permitting and accounting system to identify and systematically account for all tigers in the State. Since the DEP already collects much of the information that the bill requires, and issues a variety of permits for exotic and nongame wildlife species, the OLS does not believe that any significant added expenditure by the department would be necessary. Therefore, the OLS estimates the department would be able to recover most, if not all, of the costs incurred relating to the permitting and reporting requirements in the bill from the imposition of permit fees.

*Section: Environment, Agriculture, Energy and Natural Resources*

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This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).