

HEATHER HADWICK

MEMBER FOR THE 1ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



FACT SHEET

AB 1673 – Increasing Flexibility for County Fish and Game Commissions

IN BRIEF

Counties can use money from Fish and Game Code violations for the benefit of fish and wildlife.

Assembly Bill 1673 expands the allowable uses of funds for county sheriffs and wildlife coexistence.

Specifically, this bill allows counties to expend monies in their fish and wildlife propagation funds on wildlife coexistence programs to prevent human-wildlife conflict and on reimbursement for costs incurred by county sheriffs for enforcement.

BACKGROUND & ISSUE

Under current law, revenue generated from violations of Fish and Game Code is split between the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and counties. Fifty percent of revenue is deposited into a county's fish and wildlife propagation fund, which counties can expend for specified purposes related to fishing and wildlife conservation. Current allowable uses include public education, habitat improvement, hatchery facilities, research, administrative costs, and prosecution costs by district or city attorneys.

Rural communities are overwhelmed by high volumes of illegal activity and human-wildlife conflict. Counties and their Sheriffs are the front of defense against threats to natural resources and humans from illegal cannabis cultivation, poaching, and apex predators. These communities need more resources, tools, and flexibility to respond to and manage these threats.

SOLUTION

By allowing these funds to support local enforcement and coexistence programs, AB

1673 ensures that revenue generated from fish and wildlife violations is reinvested into protecting wildlife resources and supporting the communities most impacted by these challenges.

SUPPORT

Pending

CONTACT

Andrew Nickens
Andrew.Nickens@asm.ca.gov
(916) 319-2011