



Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen & Conservationists

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On the Front Lines – So You Can Be in the Woods, On the Water or At the Range!

September 12, 2023

Re: Opposition to HB 1300 Amendment related to reallocating Game Fund dollars

Dear Representative:

The Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen & Conservationists (PFSC), Pennsylvania's largest and oldest statewide grassroots sportsmen's organization, is opposed to this legislative transfer of \$150 Million from the Game Fund.

Senate Fiscal Code Bill (HB 1300) Transfers \$150 Million from Game Fund to State-Controlled Clean Streams Fund.

While we can all agree that the Clean Streams Fund is an important and worthy cause, we don't believe the costs should be funded exclusively by hunters and trappers. We are also very concerned that allowing such a transfer will jeopardize federal Pittman-Robertson funding for the state. Historically, Pennsylvania has received approximately \$30 - 45 Million/year in Pittman-Robertson funding.

Eligibility for Pittman-Robertson funds (the excise tax monies on hunting and shooting items) is dependent on revenue derived from hunting and fishing licenses (including funds from assets previously purchased with said revenue, such as oil & gas leases on Game Lands) being controlled by the state wildlife agency and only used for administration of the State fish and wildlife agency, which includes only the functions required to manage the agency and the fish and wildlife-related resources for which the agency has authority under State law. Any diversion of these funds will likely render the state ineligible to receive future federal funds through Pittman-Robertson (Sections 80.10, 80.11, 80.20 of the Federal code).

Allowing this transfer of monies from the Game Fund to the State treasury would also set a very bad precedence, and it violates the trust of the hunters and trappers in the Commonwealth. The Game Fund is to be used for the benefit of the Commonwealth's wildlife, wildlife habitats and the administration of the agency responsible for our wildlife, the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC). If these raids are allowed to take place, the Commission's ability to carry out its mission will be gravely affected in the coming years.

Please oppose this transfer of Game Funds to the state's Clean Streams Fund in the fiscal code bill (HB 1300). Having clean streams is an important cause, but all Commonwealth citizens should share in the costs. The burden should not be placed on the backs of hunters and trappers. And we cannot risk losing federal Pittman-Robertson funding.

For more information or questions, please contact Mike Kriner, PFSC's Director of Government Affairs.
717-810-6462

Sincerely,

Dennis Fillmore, PFSC President

More on Pittman-Robertson Funding: <https://drafting.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-I/subchapter-F/part-80>