



HB-1220

**Chairman Ryden:
Committee Members:**

My name is Denny Behrens; I am the State Director for BigGame Forever. I am here today to testify and give support for HB-1220.

This bill is a culmination of the Bear Bill of 2015 being presented today. You all have the verbiage of the bill passed last year in front of you. May I direct you to the highlighted wording of the bill, lines 7 thru 9.

- 6 INFORMATION ABOUT, CONSIDER, AND EVALUATE ALL AVAILABLE**
- 7 MANAGEMENT TOOLS TO ENHANCE THE DIVISION'S ABILITY TO PROPERLY**
- 8 MANAGE BLACK BEAR POPULATIONS YEAR ROUND TO ADDRESS**
- 9 BEAR-HUMAN CONFLICTS AND PUBLIC SAFETY.**

You also have a copy of the Bear Report, which was the mandated study in accordance with that bill. If I may direct you to page 8, there you will see a chart entitled Human - Bear Conflict Reports. You will note that the chart shows data ending in 2010. Within the documents that we have provided for you, you will find an updated version of that chart provided by the CPW. The update is thru 2015. It clearly shows a continual increase in human / bear conflicts. There are major concerns for the public's safety. Schools are in lockdown due to bears wandering on school grounds. Campgrounds are being closed due to bear conflicts. Homes are being broken into and people are being attacked.

May I now refer you to pages 19 thru 21 of that report. Here within you will see that the CPW has made recommendations for changes with in the statue to help manage bear conflicts. The CPW Staff, DWMs and Regional Managers have compiled these recommendations as solutions for the ever-increasing problems of not having the necessary tools needed to manage black bear populations. Not all the recommendations may be viable to resolve all bear



problems within certain areas of the state. But HB-1220 does give the CPW Commission the ability to address those problem areas with viable management solutions. Moving the start date of management from Sept. 2nd. to Aug. 1st., allows the CPW to begin to reduce those Human / Bear Conflicts. The CPW must be allowed to improve their ability to manage black bears in this state. We ask for a favorable yes vote on HB-1220.

**Thank You.
Denny C. Behrens
Colorado State Director
BigGame Forever**

First Regular Session Seventieth General Assembly STATE
OF COLORADO

LLS NO. 15-0887.02 Jery Payne x2157

BILLPAPER HOUSE BILL

Willett and Lebsack,

(None),

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP SENATE SPONSORSHIP

House Committees

Senate Committees

101 102

A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING A PLAN TO STUDY THE AVAILABLE BEAR
MANAGEMENT

TOOLS YEAR ROUND TO ADDRESS BEAR-HUMAN CONFLICTS. Bill
Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the re-engrossed version of this bill will be available at

<http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries.>)

The bill instructs the division of parks and wildlife to study the management of black bears to avoid bear-human conflicts and enhance public safety. The division of wildlife will report to the agriculture, livestock, and natural resources committee of the house of representatives and the agriculture, natural resources, and energy committee of the senate.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment. Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute. Dashes

through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of
Colorado:

2 SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 33-9-
110 as

3 follows:

4 33-9-110. Black bears - methods to address bear-
human

5 conflicts - study - report - repeal. (1) THE DIVISION
SHALL GATHER

6 INFORMATION ABOUT, CONSIDER, AND EVALUATE ALL
AVAILABLE

7 MANAGEMENT TOOLS TO ENHANCE THE DIVISION'S
ABILITY TO PROPERLY

8 MANAGE BLACK BEAR POPULATIONS YEAR ROUND TO
ADDRESS

9 BEAR-HUMAN CONFLICTS AND PUBLIC SAFETY. THE
DIVISION SHALL

10 REPORT ITS FINDINGS BY DECEMBER 31, 2015, TO THE
AGRICULTURE,

11 LIVESTOCK, AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF
THE HOUSE OF

12 REPRESENTATIVES AND THE AGRICULTURE, NATURAL
RESOURCES, AND

13 ENERGY COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE, OR THEIR
SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.

14 (2) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016.

15 SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.

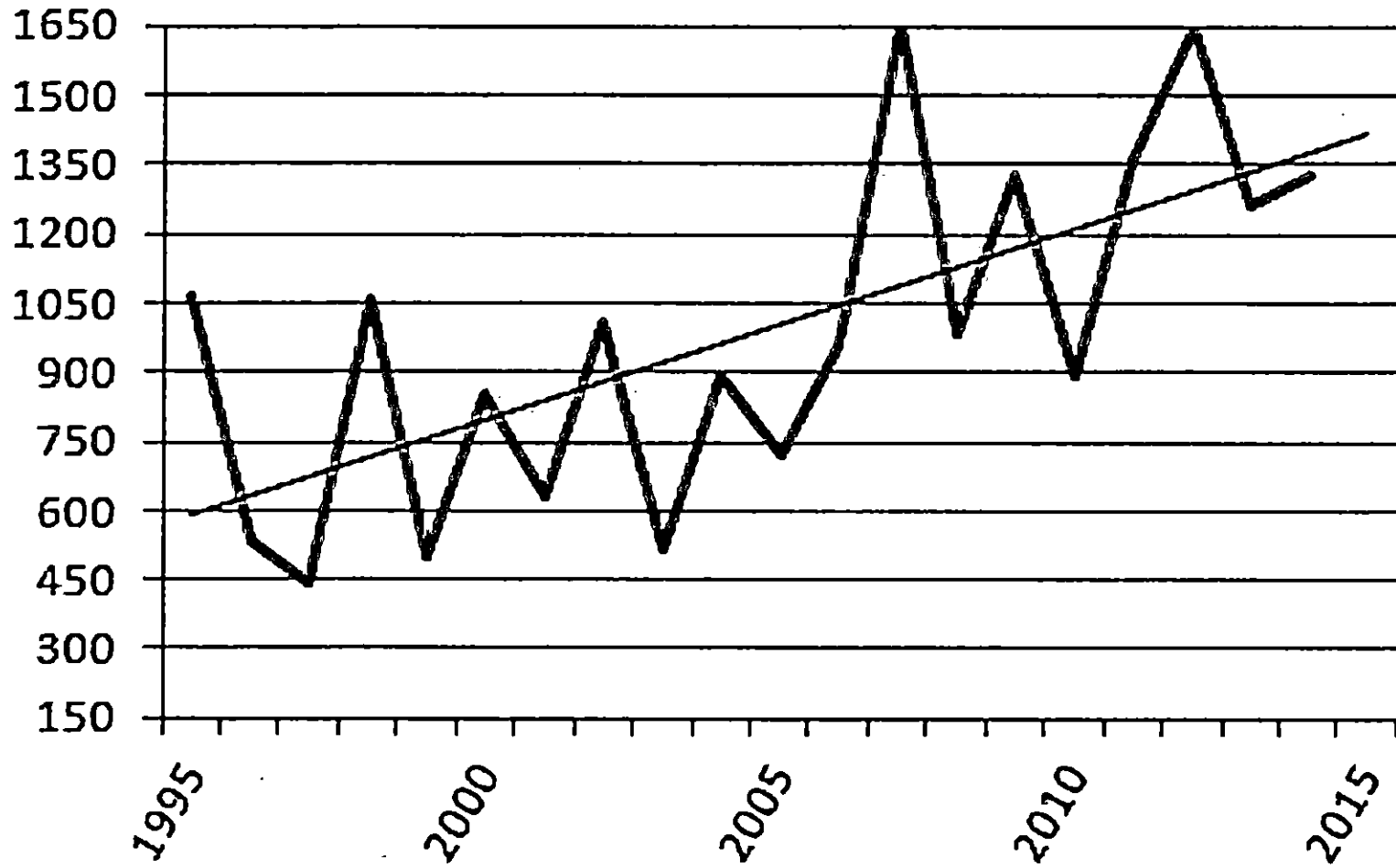
This act

16 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the
expiration of the

17 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the

general assembly (August
18 5, 2015, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2015);
except that, if a
19 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3)
of article V of the
20 'state constitution against this act or an item, section,
or part of this act
21 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part
will not take effect
22 unless approved by the people at the general election
to be held in
23 November 2016 and, in such case, will take effect on
the date of the
24 official declaration of the vote thereon by the
governor.

Human Bear Conflicts



Bear attacks continue to raise





Ballot Box Biology

#1. Has lead to an unmanageable increasing Bear Populations, which threatens the safety of Colorado's Citizens and our Visitors.

#2. Has lead to an ever-increasing population of Vermin; Fox, Skunks, Coyotes, Prairie Dogs.

#3. All of these Vermin carry Plaque & Disease. Some Fatal to Humans and Pets.

#4.Example: Hydatid Disease, which is also prevalent in Fox and Wolves: Fatal to humans.

#5.Reference: Tom Remington Report:
"Human Hydatid Disease,"