

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 290

Introduced by Assembly Member Bigelow

February 11, 2015

An act to amend Section 3953 of the Fish and Game Code, relating to mammals.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 290, as introduced, Bigelow. Game mammals: Big Game Management Account.

Existing law establishes the Big Game Management Account within the Fish and Game Preservation Fund. Existing law requires revenue from the sale of antelope, elk, deer, wild pig, bear, and sheep tags, be deposited in the Big Game Management Account, except as provided. Existing law requires funds deposited in the Big Game Management Account be expended solely for specified purposes and pursuant to specified limitations. Existing law requires an advisory committee, which includes interested nonprofit organizations that, among other requirements, have goals and objectives directly related to the management and conservation of big game species, review and provide comments to the department on all proposed projects funded from the Big Game Management Account.

This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to these provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 3953 of the Fish and Game Code is
 2 amended to read:

3 3953. (a) The Big Game Management Account is hereby
 4 established within the Fish and Game Preservation Fund.

5 (b) Except as provided in Section 709, all revenues from the
 6 sale of antelope, elk, deer, wild pig, bear, and sheep tags, including
 7 any fundraising tags, shall be deposited in the Big Game
 8 Management Account to permit separate accountability for the
 9 receipt and expenditure of these funds. Within 30 days of the date
 10 of the sale, the selling nonprofit organization shall send the
 11 department 95 percent of the total auction sale price of the tag,
 12 with an itemized receipt showing the sale price and the 5-percent
 13 reduction retained by the nonprofit organization as a vendor’s fee.

14 (c) Funds deposited in the Big Game Management Account
 15 shall be available for expenditure upon appropriation by the
 16 Legislature to the department. These funds shall be expended solely
 17 for the purposes set forth in this section and Sections 3951 and
 18 3952, and Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 450) of Division
 19 1, Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 4650), and Chapter 11
 20 (commencing with Section 4900), including acquiring land,
 21 completing projects, and implementing programs to benefit
 22 antelope, elk, deer, wild pigs, bear, and sheep, and expanding
 23 public hunting opportunities and related public outreach. Any land
 24 acquired with funds from the Big Game Management Account
 25 shall be acquired in fee title or protected with a conservation
 26 easement and, to the extent possible, be open or provide access to
 27 the public for antelope, elk, deer, wild pig, bear, or sheep hunting.
 28 The department may also use funds from the Big Game
 29 Management Account to pay for administrative and enforcement
 30 costs of the programs and activities described in this section. The
 31 amount allocated from the account for administrative costs shall
 32 be limited to the reasonable costs associated with administration
 33 of the programs and activities described in this section.

34 (d) The department may make ~~grants~~ *a grant* to, reimburse, or
 35 enter into ~~contracts~~ *a contract* or other ~~agreements~~ *agreement*, as
 36 defined in subdivision (a) of Section 1571, with ~~nonprofit~~
 37 ~~organizations~~ *a nonprofit organization* for the use of the funds

1 from the Big Game Management Account to carry out the purposes
2 of this section, including related habitat conservation projects.

3 (e) An advisory committee, as determined by the department,
4 that includes interested nonprofit organizations that have goals
5 and objectives directly related to the management and conservation
6 of big game species and primarily represent the interests of persons
7 licensed pursuant to Section 3031 shall review and provide
8 comments to the department on all proposed projects funded from
9 the Big Game Management Account to help ensure that the
10 requirements of this section ~~have been~~ *are* met. The department
11 shall post budget information and a brief description on an Internet
12 Web site for all projects funded from the Big Game Management
13 Account.

14 (f) ~~Big-A big game projects~~ *project* authorized pursuant to this
15 section ~~are~~ *is* not subject to Part 2 (commencing with Section
16 10100) of Division 2 of the Public Contract Code or Article 6
17 (commencing with Section 999) of Chapter 6 of Division 4 of the
18 Military and Veterans Code.

19 (g) The department shall maintain the internal accountability
20 necessary to ensure compliance with the collection, deposit, and
21 expenditure of funds specified in this section.