Background: Staff previously briefed the Commission regarding the Governor’s Office guidance that only “mission critical” legislation would be evaluated by the Governor’s Office for agency-sponsored legislation.

There were no legislative proposals from staff that met the threshold as mission critical for 2019 legislation. Staff also reviewed previous discussion topics of the Commission (such as feral cat prohibitions, civil penalty revisions, shooting preserve dates to allow youth hunt, various license fee revisions) and found that these would likely not be considered mission critical by the Governor’s office.

Pursuant to the Governor’s Office direction, staff has not submitted legislative ideas into the Executive Agency Legislative System (EALS) for Governor’s Office approval for 2019 agency-sponsored legislation. There will be a considerable number of Commission rules for the 2019 Legislature to review and approve.

A request by the House Resources and Conservation Committee for the Commission to holistically review discounted fees for Seniors, Juniors, Disabled, and Disabled American Veterans will be addressed at the November Commission meeting. This review is expected to inform any legislator proposals, including a previous legislative proposal (no bill hearing) to reduce archery and muzzleloader permit fees for disabled veterans.

The EALS process does not apply to legislative ideas that may be sponsored by legislators and other non-executive agency stakeholders.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues: Commission has responsibility to provide policy direction to either Department-sponsored or other legislative proposals that affect fish and wildlife management, Commission authorities, and the Department.

Public Involvement Process: There has been considerable public involvement for rules that will be reviewed by the 2019 Legislature. There has not been targeted public input for 2019 legislative proposals.

Staff Recommendation: Provide requested review of fees in November; work with legislators with interest in topics identified by the Commission.

Justification: Consistent with Governor’s Office request of executive agencies and upholds Commission policy oversight.