ASSEMBLY THIRD READING
AB 1673 (Hadwick)
As Amended April 9, 2026
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Allows a county to use moneys in its fish and wildlife propagation fund (Fund) to be used for wildlife coexistence programs to prevent human-wildlife conflict, including education, public outreach, engagement, and nonlethal measures, as approved by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

Major Provisions

COMMENTS

The Fish and Game Code (FGC) requires that all fines and forfeitures from violations of the FGC be split equally between CDFW and the county in which the violation occurred. At least once a month that money is split between the state Fish and Game Preservation Fund (i.e., to CDFW) and the county's Fund. Expenditures from the county Fund must be used for the purposes outlined in FGC Section 13103—any other uses are prohibited. CDFW has the authority to audit or require the county to audit expenditures from its Fund. Evidence of noncompliant expenditure could result in CDFW freezing the county's Fund or requiring the county to reimburse the Fund.

Existing law limits the eligible expenditures of Fund dollars. Each new eligible expenditure increases the flexibility of the money, but also dilutes the likelihood that the money will be spent on the existing purposes. This bill proposes a new category of expenditure from a county's Fund, for wildlife coexistence programs. The efforts to prevent human-wildlife conflict proposed in this bill (education, public outreach, engagement, and nonlethal measures) are in line with other allowed uses of the Fund.

According to the Author
"This bill ensures counties can reinvest enforcement revenue into protecting their natural resources and their rural communities that depend on them."

Arguments in Support
The California Rifle & Pistol Association writes that "allowing funds for mitigation of specific environmental impacts and human-wildlife conflict prevention programs aligns with practical, science-based wildlife management. These measures can reduce conflicts in areas where hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation intersect with residential or agricultural development, benefiting both wildlife and the public."

Arguments in Opposition
None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, CDFW reports that this bill has minor and absorbable costs.

VOTES

ASM WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE: 12-0-1
YES: Papan, Jeff Gonzalez, Alanis, Alvarez, Bains, Bennett, Boerner, Caloza, Gallagher, Hart, Ward, Rogers
ABS, ABST OR NV: Ávila Farías

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 14-0-1
YES: Wicks, Hoover, Arambula, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Muratsuchi, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache, Ta, Tangipa
ABS, ABST OR NV: Calderon

UPDATED

VERSION: April 9, 2026

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