

FIRST ENGROSSMENT**ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1017**

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish
2 department; and to provide an exemption.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds
5 as may be necessary, are appropriated from other funds derived from special funds and federal
6 funds, to the game and fish department for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the game
7 and fish department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027, as
8 follows:

| | | Adjustments or | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| | <u>Base Level</u> | <u>Enhancements</u> | <u>Appropriation</u> |
| 11 Salaries and wages | \$37,008,098 | \$2,052,121 | \$39,060,219 |
| 12 New and vacant FTE pool | 0 | 1,862,510 | 1,862,510 |
| 13 Operating expenses | 17,788,258 | 2,016,038 | 19,804,296 |
| 14 Capital assets | 5,400,661 | 1,622,479 | 7,023,140 |
| 15 Grants - game and fish | 10,089,976 | (3,001,997) | 7,087,979 |
| 16 Land habitat and deer depredation | 27,183,516 | 4,989,565 | 32,173,081 |
| 17 Noxious weed control | 725,000 | 0 | 725,000 |
| 18 Missouri River enforcement | 313,869 | 9,912 | 323,781 |
| 19 Grants, gifts, and donations | 677,970 | 17,110 | 695,080 |
| 20 Nongame wildlife conservation | 100,000 | 0 | 100,000 |
| 21 Lonetree reservoir | 2,156,714 | (48,117) | 2,108,597 |
| 22 Wildlife services | 500,000 | 0 | 500,000 |

| | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1 | Shooting sports grant program | 250,000 | 0 | 250,000 |
| 2 | Aquatic nuisance species program | <u>2,533,452</u> | <u>352,055</u> | <u>2,885,507</u> |
| 3 | Total other funds | \$104,727,514 | \$9,871,676 | \$114,599,190 |
| 4 | Full-time equivalent positions | 170.00 | 0.00 | 170.00 |

5 **SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO**

6 **SEVENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.** The following amounts reflect the one-time funding
7 items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act which are not included in the entity's
8 base budget for the 2027-29 biennium and which the entity shall report to the appropriations
9 committees of the seventieth legislative assembly regarding the use of this funding:

| | | |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 10 | <u>One-Time Funding Description</u> | <u>Other Funds</u> |
| 11 | Information technology projects | \$380,000 |
| 12 | Baukol-Noonan dam repairs | 150,000 |
| 13 | Equipment | 220,200 |
| 14 | Garrison dam national fish hatchery pondliners | 1,500,000 |
| 15 | Garrison dam national fish hatchery pumps | 300,000 |
| 16 | Wildlife habitat and access on private lands | <u>5,000,000</u> |
| 17 | Total other funds | \$7,550,200 |

18 **SECTION 3. NEW AND VACANT FTE POOL - LIMITATION - TRANSFER REQUEST.** The

19 game and fish department may not spend funds appropriated in the new and vacant FTE pool
20 line item in section 1 of this Act, but may request the office of management and budget to
21 transfer funds from the new and vacant FTE pool line item to the salaries and wages line item in
22 accordance with the guidelines and reporting provisions included in House Bill No. 1015, as
23 approved by the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.

24 **SECTION 4. GRANTS, GIFTS, AND DONATIONS LINE ITEM.** The grants, gifts, and

25 donations line item in section 1 of this Act includes up to \$100,000 received by the game and
26 fish department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation on department-owned or
27 managed properties as a result of mineral exploration and extraction activities.

28 **SECTION 5. MIDTERM CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS.** The game and fish department

29 may spend up to \$2,777,778 from other funds in the land habitat and deer depredation line item
30 in section 1 of this Act for national fish and wildlife foundation midterm conservation agreements
31 with private landowners. The department shall limit the term of these agreements to a maximum

1 of thirty years. The department shall provide buyback provisions after the fifteenth, twentieth,
2 and twenty-fifth years of the agreement if the property owner desires to withdraw all or a portion
3 of acreage from the lease.

4 **SECTION 6. EXEMPTION - LINE ITEM TRANSFERS.** Notwithstanding section 54-16-04,
5 the director of the office of management and budget shall transfer up to \$2,000,000 of
6 appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and
7 fish line items in section 1 of this Act as requested by the game and fish department during the
8 biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The game and fish department
9 shall notify the legislative council of any transfers made pursuant to this section.