



HB 1017
2025-27 Appropriation Request
North Dakota Game and Fish Department
March 6, 2025

Chairman Wanzek and members of the Government Operations Division of Senate Appropriations, my name is Brian Hosek, and I serve as the Administrative Services Division Chief for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. I will be testifying on HB1017, our appropriation bill.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is largely directed under NDCC Title 20.1 and many of those responsibilities reside under 20.1-02-05 which lists the power of the Director. The major statutory responsibilities can be summarized as: to manage and regulate the state's wildlife resources, game and non-game, for the use, enjoyment, possession, disposition, and conservation for the public of North Dakota.

The 2025-27 executive budget recommendation is \$115,602,907. This is an increase of \$10,875,393 from the 2023-2025 legislative base level appropriation of \$104,727,514.

The 2025-27 House version is \$114,599,190. This is an increase of \$9,871,676 from the 2023-25 base level appropriation of \$104,727,514.

My testimony will cover the following for the Department:

- Federal and Special Revenue
- Fund Balance
- Legislative Base changes
- 25-27 Budget Changes
- Other Sections included in the executive bill draft for HB1017
- Budget by Divisions
- Potential Land Acquisitions

The Game and Fish Department is a special fund agency receiving revenue from game and fish license sales (hunting, fishing, boating registrations, etc.) and federal funding.

We do not receive any general fund dollars.

Audit Findings Report: No areas of concern were identified.

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Committee Division Outline

1. Explain the purpose of the agency and its various divisions/programs - Cite North Dakota Century Code provisions (page 1) and attach an organizational chart (slide 6).
2. Report any audit findings included in the most recent audit and action taken to address each finding (page 1).
3. Discuss current biennium accomplishments and challenges and next biennium goals and plans. (slides 52-59)
4. Compare the agency's request/recommendation totals, including full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, for the next biennium compared to the current biennium. (slides 20-25)
5. Discuss any new positions approved for your agency for the 2023-25 biennium by the 2023 Legislative Assembly, the timing of filling the positions, amounts transferred from the OMB pool for the filled positions, and funding appropriated and the amount estimated to be spent for each position for the 2023-25 biennium. (slide 49)
6. Discuss employee turnover and the number of vacant positions during the 2023-25 biennium to date, the amount of savings relating to the vacant positions and employee turnover to date compared to the vacant position savings removed from your agency's budget by the 2023 Legislative Assembly, the amount of vacant position saving spent for other purposes, and any amounts transferred or anticipated to be transferred from the OMB pool. (slides 50-51)
7. Explain the funding included in each program/line item either in total or by division depending on the size of the agency as follows: (slides 35-48)
 - a. Amounts included in the base level and their purpose and use; and
 - b. Amounts included in the request/recommendation/first chamber action and justification for the change from the base level. Discuss changes relating to each line item (salaries and wages, operating expenses, etc.) funding source (general fund, special funds, federal funds), and FTE positions.
8. Discuss the purpose and use of any one-time funding items for the current biennium. (slide 21)
9. Identify and justify the need for any one-time funding being requested. (slides 28-29, 31-33)
10. Discuss any fees the agency charges, the appropriateness of the fee amount, fee collections that are deposited in the general fund or a special fund, and any anticipated changes from 2023 legislative session estimates during the 2023-25 biennium and estimated changes for the 2025-27 biennium. (slide 19)
11. Identify any federal state fiscal relief funds remaining to be spent by your agency by December 2026. Provide the amount, the purpose, and a timeline of anticipated expenditures. \$27,000 Devils Lake Fire Alarm System Upgrade. Expected completion by 6/30/2025.
12. Discuss the need for any other sections to be added to the appropriation bill. (slide 34)
13. Discuss any other bills being considered by the Legislative Assembly and their potential budgetary impact on your agency. (slide 60)
14. Provide a one-page itemized listing any changes your agency is requesting the committee to make to the first chamber's action on your budget. (slide 30)
15. Provide additional information as necessary.