

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT
with Conference Committee Amendments
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2017**

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; to provide a contingent appropriation; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an
3 exemption.

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

5 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds
6 as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the game and fish fund in the state
7 treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from special funds derived from federal funds and
8 other income, to the game and fish department for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the
9 game and fish department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025,
10 as follows:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	
11				
12				
13	Salaries and wages	\$33,741,592	\$2,746,155	\$36,487,747
14	Operating expenses	16,276,782	1,543,716	17,820,498
15	Capital assets	6,774,770	1,773,891	8,548,661
16	Grants - game and fish	8,923,343	1,166,633	10,089,976
17	Land habitat and deer depredation	17,995,597	9,212,172	27,207,769
18	Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000
19	Missouri River enforcement	296,999	16,342	313,341
20	Grants, gifts, and donations	670,133	6,853	676,986
21	Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000
22	Lonetree reservoir	1,818,409	334,235	2,152,644
23	Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000
24	Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000

1	Aquatic nuisance species program	<u>1,509,009</u>	<u>1,229,835</u>	<u>2,738,844</u>
2	Total special funds	\$89,581,634	\$18,029,832	\$107,611,466
3	Full-time equivalent positions	164.00	6.00	170.00

4 **SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO THE**
5 **SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.** The following amounts reflect the one-time funding
6 items approved by the sixty-seventh legislative assembly for the 2021-23 biennium and the
7 2023-25 biennium one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act:

8	<u>One-Time Funding Description</u>	<u>2021-23</u>	<u>2023-25</u>
9	Additional PLOTS payments	\$1,485,000	\$0
10	Red River basin wildlife and water quality program	500,000	0
11	State radio equipment	801,500	0
12	Aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility	0	850,000
13	In-car video system and body cameras	0	550,000
14	Fisheries pond liners	0	1,000,000
15	Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements	0	350,000
16	Fisheries dam repairs	0	380,000
17	Wash stations and other equipment	0	205,000
18	Uniforms and supplies for new FTE positions	<u>0</u>	<u>89,090</u>
19	Total special funds	\$2,786,500	\$3,424,090

20 The 2023-25 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget
21 for the 2025-27 biennium. The game and fish department shall report to the appropriations
22 committees of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the
23 biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

24 **SECTION 3. 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 4. CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT**
29 **POSITIONS - RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT.** Subject to the provisions of this
30 section, there is appropriated from federal funds, the sum of \$27,150,000, or so much of the
31 sum as may be necessary, to the game and fish department for the purpose of administering

1 programs approved under the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act, for the biennium
2 beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The department is authorized four full-time
3 equivalent positions for this purpose. The funding and positions authorized in this section are
4 available only upon enactment of the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act and after
5 corresponding federal funds have been made available to the state. The department shall
6 regularly coordinate with and consider input from the federal environmental law impact review
7 committee in the expenditure of funds for conservation or research under this section.

8 **SECTION 5. MIDTERM CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS.** The game and fish department
9 may spend up to \$2,777,778 from other funds in the land habitat and deer depredation line item
10 in section 1 of this Act for national fish and wildlife foundation midterm conservation agreements
11 with private landowners. The department shall limit the term of these agreements to a maximum
12 of thirty years. The department shall provide buyback provisions after the fifteenth, twentieth,
13 and twenty-fifth years of the agreement if the property owner desires to withdraw all or a portion
14 of acreage from the lease.

15 **SECTION 6. EXEMPTION - LINE ITEM TRANSFERS.** Notwithstanding section 54-16-04,
16 the director of the office of management and budget shall transfer up to \$2,000,000 of
17 appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and
18 fish line items in section 1 of this Act as requested by the game and fish department during the
19 biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The game and fish department
20 shall notify the legislative council of any transfers made pursuant to this section.