

**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:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	
10				
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.