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Title.
Fiscal No. 1

Prepared by the Legislative Council
staff for Senate Appropriations -
Government Operations Division
Committee

March 20, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
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>
11 Salaries and wages	\$37,008,098	\$2,052,121	\$39,060,219
12 <u>Salaries and wages</u>	<u>\$37,008,098</u>	<u>\$2,317,621</u>	<u>\$39,325,719</u>
13 New and vacant FTE pool	0	1,862,510	1,862,510
14 Operating expenses	17,788,258	2,016,038	19,804,296
15 Capital assets	5,400,661	1,622,479	7,023,140
16 Grants - game and fish	10,089,976	(3,001,997)	7,087,979
17 Land habitat and deer depredation	27,183,516	4,989,565	32,173,081
18 Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000
19 Missouri River enforcement	313,869	9,912	323,781

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1	Grants, gifts, and donations	677,970	17,110	695,080
2	Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000
3	Lonetree reservoir	2,156,714	(48,117)	2,108,597
4	Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000
5	Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000
6	Aquatic nuisance species program	<u>2,533,452</u>	<u>352,055</u>	<u>2,885,507</u>
7	Total other funds	\$104,727,514	\$9,871,676	\$114,599,190
8	<u>Total other funds</u>	<u>\$104,727,514</u>	<u>\$10,137,176</u>	<u>\$114,864,690</u>
9	Full-time equivalent positions	170.00	0.00	170.00

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

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

	<u>One-Time Funding Description</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>
16	Information technology projects	\$380,000
17	Baukol-Noonan Dam repairs	150,000
18	Equipment	220,200
19	Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery pondliners	1,500,000
20	Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery pumps	300,000
21	Wildlife habitat and access on private lands	<u>5,000,000</u>
22	Total other funds	\$7,550,200

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

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

SECTION 4. GRANTS, GIFTS, AND DONATIONS LINE ITEM.

The grants, gifts, and donations line item in section 1 of this Act includes up to \$100,000 received by the game and

1 fish department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation on department-owned or
2 managed properties as a result of mineral exploration and extraction activities.

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

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

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

House Bill No. 1017 - Game and Fish Department - Senate Action

	Base Budget	House Version	Senate Changes	Senate Version
Salaries and wages	\$37,008,098	\$39,060,219	\$265,500	\$39,325,719
New and vacant FTE pool		1,862,510		1,862,510
Operating expenses	17,788,258	19,804,296		19,804,296
Capital assets	5,400,661	7,023,140		7,023,140
Grants - Game and fish	10,089,976	7,087,979		7,087,979
Land habitat and deer depredation	27,183,516	32,173,081		32,173,081
Noxious weed control	725,000	725,000		725,000
Missouri River enforcement	313,869	323,781		323,781
Grants - Gifts - Donations	677,970	695,080		695,080
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	100,000		100,000
Lonetree Reservoir	2,156,714	2,108,597		2,108,597
Wildlife Services	500,000	500,000		500,000
Shooting sports grant program	250,000	250,000		250,000
Aquatic nuisance species education	2,533,452	2,885,507		2,885,507
Total all funds	\$104,727,514	\$114,599,190	\$265,500	\$114,864,690
Less estimated income	104,727,514	114,599,190	265,500	114,864,690
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	170.00	170.00	0.00	170.00

Department 720 - Game and Fish Department - Detail of Senate Changes

	Adds Funding for Temporary Salaries ¹	Total Senate Changes
Salaries and wages	\$265,500	\$265,500
New and vacant FTE pool		
Operating expenses		
Capital assets		
Grants - Game and fish		
Land habitat and deer depredation		
Noxious weed control		
Missouri River enforcement		
Grants - Gifts - Donations		
Nongame wildlife conservation		
Lonetree Reservoir		
Wildlife Services		
Shooting sports grant program		
Aquatic nuisance species education		
Total all funds	\$265,500	\$265,500
Less estimated income	265,500	265,500
General fund	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00

¹ Funding is added for temporary salaries, of which \$77,756 is from federal funds and \$187,744 is from the game and fish operating fund, to provide a total of \$2,221,582 for temporary salaries in the salaries and wages line item.