

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>
10			
11	Salaries and wages	\$0	\$37,008,098
12	Operating expenses	0	17,788,258
13	Capital assets	0	5,400,661
14	Grants - game and fish	0	10,089,976
15	Land habitat and deer depredation	0	27,183,516
16	Noxious weed control	0	725,000
17	Missouri River enforcement	0	313,869
18	Grants, gifts, and donations	0	677,970
19	Nongame wildlife conservation	0	100,000
20	Lonetree reservoir	0	2,156,714
21	Wildlife services	0	500,000
22	Shooting sports grant program	0	250,000
23	Aquatic nuisance species program	<u>0</u>	<u>2,533,452</u>

1	Total other funds	\$104,727,514	\$0	\$104,727,514
2	Full-time equivalent positions	170.00	0.00	170.00

3       **SECTION 2. GRANTS, GIFTS, AND DONATIONS LINE ITEM.** The grants, gifts, and  
4 donations line item in section 1 of this Act includes up to \$100,000 received by the game and  
5 fish department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation on department-owned or  
6 managed properties as a result of mineral exploration and extraction activities.

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

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