

**Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 7, 2025**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1017
(Appropriations Committee)

AN ACT to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department; and to provide an exemption.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION. The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds as may be necessary, are appropriated from other funds derived from special funds and federal funds, to the game and fish department for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the game and fish department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027, as follows:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Salaries and wages	\$37,008,098	\$2,317,621	\$39,325,719
New and vacant FTE pool	0	1,862,510	1,862,510
Operating expenses	17,788,258	2,016,038	19,804,296
Capital assets	5,400,661	1,622,479	7,023,140
Grants - game and fish	10,089,976	(3,001,997)	7,087,979
Land habitat and deer depredation	27,183,516	4,989,565	32,173,081
Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000
Missouri River enforcement	313,869	9,912	323,781
Grants, gifts, and donations	677,970	17,110	695,080
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000
Lonetree reservoir	2,156,714	(48,117)	2,108,597
Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000
Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000
Aquatic nuisance species program	<u>2,533,452</u>	<u>352,055</u>	<u>2,885,507</u>
Total other funds	\$104,727,514	\$10,137,176	\$114,864,690
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>
Information technology projects	\$380,000
Baukol-Noonan dam repairs	150,000
Equipment	220,200
Garrison dam national fish hatchery pondliners	1,500,000
Garrison dam national fish hatchery pumps	300,000
Wildlife habitat and access on private lands	<u>5,000,000</u>
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 and other line items with salaries and wages 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 fish department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation on department-owned or managed properties as a result of mineral exploration and extraction activities.

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

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

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1017.

House Vote: Yeas 77 Nays 14 Absent 3

Senate Vote: Yeas 45 Nays 1 Absent 1

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2025.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2025.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2025,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State