

Game and Fish Department
Budget No. 720
House Bill No. 1017

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2025-27 legislative appropriations	170.00	\$0	\$114,864,690	\$114,864,690
2025-27 base budget	170.00	0	104,727,514	104,727,514
Legislative increase (decrease) to base budget	0.00	\$0	\$10,137,176	\$10,137,176

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO THE BASE BUDGET AND MAJOR FUNDING ITEMS
Changes to Base Budget

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
The legislative action:				
Adjusted funding for base payroll changes			(\$838,661)	(\$838,661)
Added funding to provide employee salary increases of 3 percent on July 1, 2025, and 3 percent on July 1, 2026, of which \$601,106 is from federal funds and \$987,429 is from special funds			1,588,535	1,588,535
Added funding for employee health insurance premiums to reflect a revised premium estimate of \$1,893 per month, of which \$396,260 is from federal funds and \$606,621 is from special funds			1,002,881	1,002,881
Added funding to replace the 2023-25 biennium new and vacant FTE funding pool, including \$2,241,734 for new positions and \$1,179,021 for vacant positions. Of the total, \$1,489,600 is from federal funds and \$1,931,155 is from special funds.			3,420,755	3,420,755
Transferred (\$2,660,727) for estimated savings from vacant FTE positions from the salaries and wages line item and other line items as necessary to the new and vacant FTE pool line item and reduced the amount to \$1,862,510 resulting in the savings as shown			(798,217)	(798,217)
Added funding for temporary salaries, including \$77,756 from federal funds and \$187,744 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			265,500	265,500
Added funding for increasing motorpool costs, including \$321,100 from federal funds and \$366,231 from the game and fish operating fund			687,331	687,331

Added funding from special funds for increasing information technology costs	639,189	639,189
Adjusted base level funding, including adding \$109,291 for accrued leave payouts for retirements, adding \$26,000 for the land habitat and deer depredation program, adding \$36,572 for the aquatic nuisance species program, reducing (\$1,351,997) for game and fish grants, and reducing (\$550,203) for operating expenses and capital assets, primarily related to decreases in operating fees and services and buildings, grounds, and vehicle supplies	(1,730,337)	(1,730,337)
Reduced federal funding for shooting ranges grants, resulting in \$1,650,000 of federal funding remaining for the program	(1,650,000)	(1,650,000)
Added one-time funding from the game and fish operating fund for information technology projects, including \$100,000 for the Game and Fish Department mobile application, \$250,000 for a customer relationship management solution, and \$30,000 for a video asset management system	380,000	380,000
Added one-time funding from the game and fish operating fund for repairs to the Baukol-Noonan Dam	150,000	150,000
Added one-time funding from the game and fish operating fund for equipment, of which \$91,850 is from federal funds and \$128,350 is from the game and fish operating fund, including \$70,000 for tractors, \$12,000 for all-terrain vehicles, \$13,200 for law enforcement aquatic radios, \$65,000 for a fiberglass boat, motor, and trailer, and \$60,000 for the replacement of game warden firearms	220,200	220,200
Added one-time funding for Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery pondliners (\$1.5 million) and high-pressure pumps (\$300,000), of which \$1.35 million is from federal funds and \$450,000 is from the game and fish operating fund	1,800,000	1,800,000
Added one-time funding for wildlife habitat and access on private lands, including \$1 million for the habitat improvement program, \$2.3 million for private land open to sportsmen (PLOTS) payments, and \$1.7 million for the rangeland legacy program. Of the total, \$4.1 million is from federal funds and \$900,000 is from the habitat and depredation fund.	5,000,000	5,000,000
Total	<u>0.00</u>	<u>\$0</u>
	<u>\$10,137,176</u>	<u>\$10,137,176</u>

FTE Changes

The Legislative Assembly approved 170 FTE positions for the Game and Fish Department for the 2025-27 biennium, the same as the 2023-25 biennium.

One-Time Funding

The following is a summary of one-time funding items for the Game and Fish Department for the 2025-27 biennium:

	Federal Funds	Special Funds	Total
Information technology projects	\$0	\$380,000	\$380,000
Baukol-Noonan Dam repairs	0	150,000	150,000
Equipment	91,850	128,350	220,200
Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery - Pondliner replacements	1,125,000	375,000	1,500,000
Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery - High-pressure pump replacements	225,000	75,000	300,000
Wildlife habitat and access on private lands	4,100,000	900,000	5,000,000
Total	\$5,541,850	\$2,008,350	\$7,550,200

Other Sections in House Bill No. 1017

New and vacant FTE pool line item - Section 3 provides the Game and Fish Department may not spend funds appropriated in the new and vacant FTE pool line item but may request the Office of Management and Budget to transfer funds to line items with salaries and wages funding.

Grants, gifts, and donations line - Section 4 identifies \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department in the grants, gifts, and donations line item for surface damage, easements, or reclamation on department-owned or managed properties as a result of mineral exploration and extraction activities.

Midterm conservation agreements - Section 5 identifies that the \$2,777,778 included in the land habitat and deer depredation line item can be used for midterm conservation agreements entered with private landowners for a maximum of 30 years with buyout options at 15, 20, and 25 years.

Line item transfer authority - Section 6 authorizes the Game and Fish Department to transfer up to \$2 million between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items, during the 2025-27 biennium. The department is required to report transfers to the Legislative Council.

Related Legislation

House Bill No. 1470 - Hunting fees - This bill increases hunting, fishing, and gun dog activity fees.

Senate Bill No. 2216 - Waterfowl stamp - This bill requires a \$5 waterfowl habitat restoration stamp to be purchased in addition to the purchase of a resident small game license.