

**2025 HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**HB 1470**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1470

2/6/2025

|                                       |
|---------------------------------------|
| Relating to hunting and fishing fees. |
|---------------------------------------|

9:22 a.m. Chairman Porter called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman Anderson, Vice Chair Novak,  
Representatives: Dockter, Hagert, Headland, Heinert, Johnson, Marschall, Olson, Ruby,  
Conmy, Foss

### Discussion Topics:

- Funding
- Fee increasments

9:24 a.m. Representative Bosch introduced the bill and submitted testimony. #35859

9:28 a.m. Brock Wahl, Chairman of the ND Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, testified in favor and submitted testimony. #35740

9:31 a.m. John Bradley, Executive Director, ND Wildlife Federation, testified in favor and submitted testimony. #35776

9:34 a.m. Warren Swenson, Wildlife Conservation Organization, testified in favor and submitted testimony. #35461

9:36 a.m. Kevin Glatt, ND Resident, testified in favor.

9:40 a.m. Jeb Williams, Director of the ND Game and Fish, testified neutrally and submitted testimony. #35995 #35996

### Additional written testimony:

Nick Surma, ND Resident, submitted testimony in favor. #34633

Brayn Jochim, ND Resident, submitted testimony in favor. #35093

Sheldon Cieslak, President, Hazen Sportsmen, submitted testimony in favor. #35306

Mary Massad, President, ND Water Users Association, submitted testimony in favor. #35376

Cyrus Baird, Government Affairs, Delta Waterfowl Foundation, submitted testimony in favor. #35677

Richard Brueckner, President, ND Sportfishing Congress, submitted testimony in favor. #35726

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

HB 1470

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9:48 Chairman Porter closed the meeting

*Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk*

## HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

## Testimony in favor of HB 1470

Chairman Porter and members of the Committee:

My name is Nick Surma, and I am a resident of Lincoln, North Dakota. I submit this testimony in support of HB 1470. North Dakota enjoys some of the best hunting opportunities in North America. This is primarily due to North Dakota's exceptional wildlife habitat and hunter land access. However, as with everything, the price to sustain North Dakota's premier habitat and hunting opportunities has gone up and will continue to go up over time. As a hunter, I support modest increases in license fees, with the revenues from such increases going towards habitat and wildlife conservation and hunter land access efforts. This Bill helps accomplish these objectives.

I noticed a discrepancy in the bill that I would like to bring to the Committee's attention. Line 22 on Page 3 of the Bill increases the price of a nonresident waterfowl license from \$100 to \$120. Then, Line 16 on Page 4 of the Bill removes the word "statewide" and states that a nonresident waterfowl license is \$150. These provisions are conflicting.

As an avid waterfowl hunter, I advocate that nonresident waterfowl licenses be at least \$150. North Dakota attracts tens of thousands of nonresident waterfowl hunters each year due to its world-class waterfowl hunting opportunities. In fact, I'm going to make an educated guess that North Dakota is one of the top states in attracting nonresident waterfowl hunters. Given the significant number of nonresident hunters who travel to North Dakota for the sole purpose of taking advantage of the State's waterfowl hunting resources, I believe these hunters should pay an increased amount to help sustain waterfowl habitat and hunting access.

Thank you for considering my testimony and your efforts on HB 1470.



Chairman Porter and Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Bryan Jochim residing in Bismarck N.D District 47.

I am submitting testimony in support of HB1470 with the amendments that are forthcoming I believe.

The Game and Fish Department has not had a license fee increase in an exceedingly long time.

The Department had their Annual District Meetings across the State to hear the concerns from Resident Hunters. The Game and Fish Department hosted a Habitat and Access Summit to address the opportunities and concerns that came out of the district meetings. There was fact-based information presented by NDSU and Leadership from the Department of Game and Fish. The content was an effort to address the concerns from the district meetings. The opportunities presented and discussed require incremental funding to address Habitat investment and Access Programs for any licensed hunter in the state.

We have an influx of out of state hunters coming to our state to enjoy our great resource we have. There is a financial benefit to have that. I always ask the question why are they here? Their resource is not what it used to be and ours is great. Let us make sure we are protecting our resource for all and those who choose to come. We need to change licensing fees accordingly for investment to ensure we do not lose our resource as well.

Let us preserve our resource, protect our resource, and invest in the resource that we are so fortunate to enjoy.

Increase in fees provides investment to do that and supports the next generation.

I am asking for a DO PASS on HB1470.

Bryan Jochim

Although the Hazen Sportsmen do not support any new or additional license's or stamps etc. in regards to hunting, fishing, trapping, or other outdoor activities at this time, we do support HB 1470 and the license fee increases currently proposed by the North Dakota State Game and Fish Department

It has been 12 years since the Game and fish has asked for an increase in license fees. The proposed increases appear to be modest, raising the overall fees less than 20% for resident sportsmen and sportswomen.

We feel it needs to be pointed out that if HB 1470 passes, and if the past is any indicator of the future, it could very possibly be another 12 years or longer before this subject would be brought up again.

We would like to thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Sheldon Cieslak

President, Hazen Sportsmen



*DEDICATED TO PROTECTING, DEVELOPING, AND MANAGING NORTH DAKOTA'S WATER RESOURCES*  
 PO Box 2254, Bismarck, ND 58502-2254 701-223-4615 • 701-223-4645 (Fax)

**House Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
 Hearing for HB 1470  
 February 6, 2025**

**Testimony of Mary Massad, President, North Dakota Water Users Association**

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1470. My name is Mary Massad, and I am the president of the North Dakota Water Users Association. The Water Users Association is the state-wide member organization dedicated to protecting, developing, and managing North Dakota's water resources. We have more than 150 members including local, statewide and regional organizations in North Dakota who have an active interest in water.

We are supportive of the collaborative work of the legislature, the Game and Fish Department and industry stakeholders to review fees assessed by the Department to support the important work they do. One important mission of the Game and Fish Department is preventing the spread of aquatic nuisance species (ANS).

As the threat of ANS, particularly zebra mussels, grows, additional work will need to be done to curb the spread through inspection and education. Zebra mussels are especially damaging to any type of infrastructure within an infected body of water, including water supply and irrigation intakes. Today, zebra mussels are present in the Missouri River in South Dakota. We must all work diligently to prevent their spread into the Missouri River here. Introduction of zebra mussels in the Missouri River would impact major infrastructure up and down the river including:

- intakes for major water supply systems like the Southwest Pipeline Project and Northwest Area Water Supply project
- numerous water supply systems for communities like Williston and Bismarck
- irrigation intakes
- power production at the Garrison Dam
- recreational opportunities, particularly on beaches and sandbars in the river

Once introduced, zebra mussels can NOT be eradicated. These thumbnail-sized mollusks spread rapidly; a single female mussel can produce about a half a billion offspring in her three-to five-year life span. It only takes one infected boat to introduce zebra mussels and infect an entire body of water, creating a devastating ripple effect to the entire waterway. This is why a robust inspection strategy is vital to prevention.

Game and Fish funds ANS activities through both dedicated fees and federal funding. While the goal of HB 1470 is to ensure the department maintains its needed reserves, we would ask that fees that fund ANS activities also be considered. The costs to meet the growing needs associated with ANS are rising. It seems appropriate to also raise ANS fees as part of this comprehensive review of Game and Fish's license fees.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Testimony on HB 1470

Chairman Porter, Vice Chairs Anderson and Novak, and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Warren Swenson, I reside in District 7 here in Bismarck, and I am testifying today in **support of HB 1470**.

For background, I have been a member of wildlife conservation organizations for the last 15 years, I am an avid sportsman chasing fins, feathers, and fur across this great state. I grew up on a farm in Oliver County where we implement conservation programs, some with the help of the ND Game and Fish Department, and show new and old, residents and non-resident, hunters alike, the bountiful game that we have come to take for granted.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has been creating exceptional habitat and access opportunities, countless surveys and studies, and enforcing the ever-changing laws in North Dakota. This has become ever more difficult and expensive in the last decade, yet the prices of the sportsman's licenses have not changed. The last time our legislation increased the prices of hunting and fishing licenses was in 2013. According to the North Dakota Trust Lands Department, from 2014 to 2024, average county rental rates have increased 39% for pastureland in Burleigh County, 21% in Mercer County, and a 23% increase in Morton County. Cropland rental rates have increased 25% in Burleigh County, 24% in Mercer County, and a 10% increase in Morton County. Because of this, it has become increasingly more expensive to bring in new landowners willing to sign up for the PLOTS program. I bring this to your attention because we, as sportsmen and women, have been expecting the ND Game and Fish Department to deliver the same quality PLOTS land with no increase in license costs for both residents and non-residents.

The ND Game and Fish Department protects our waters, with an increase in boat registration fees, the department can continue to defend our waters from aquatic nuisance species (ANS).

I pose this question to the committee, do you think you could live the same life today, with the income you had in 2013? This bill will serve to provide the citizens of North Dakota with more opportunities to chase fins, fur, and feathers on quality, publicly accessible land and water.

It is time for the hunters and fishermen of North Dakota to step up and give the department a boost, so they can continue to deliver their mission: *to protect, conserve, and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitat for sustained public consumptive and nonconsumptive use.*

I believe that fair license fee increases for both our resident and nonresident sportsmen and women are good for North Dakota. I urge a **do pass recommendation on HB 1470**. Thank you for your time and I will stand for any questions.

Warren Swenson

District 7

Bismarck, ND



February 5, 2025

Representative Todd Porter  
Chairman, House Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Coteau AB Room  
600 E Boulevard Ave, Bismarck, ND 58505

Representative Dick Anderson  
Vice Chairman, House Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Coteau AB Room  
600 E Boulevard Ave, Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: House Bill 1470 - *A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 20.1-03-12 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to hunting and fishing fees.*

Position: SUPPORT

Chairman Porter and Vice Chairman Anderson,

On behalf of Delta Waterfowl members, both in the state of North Dakota and across the United States, I want to thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 1470, legislation that that will update the suite of fees associated with hunting licenses, permits and tags through the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (Game and Fish).

For some background, Delta Waterfowl is the largest organization in North American dedicated to ducks and duck hunters. Founded at the famed Delta Marsh in Manitoba in 1911, with its United States headquarters here in Bismarck, North Dakota, Delta Waterfowl works to promote and protect the continuing tradition of waterfowl hunting across North America – including here in North Dakota.

State fish and wildlife agencies across the country and constantly being asked to do more with less, and in North Dakota, that is no different. This legislation has the ability to increase the overall funding for on-the-ground conservation efforts through the North Dakota Game and Fish by slightly increasing the price of the suite of both resident and non-resident hunting licenses for the first time in more than 25 years. This fee increase will help the department stabilize their fund balance while not pricing residents or non-residents out of hunting in North Dakota.

A modest, inflation adjusted price increase of the suite of licenses fees that the Game and Fish offers will allow them to not only add roughly \$5 million in funding each year, but will allow them to also tap into a 3-to-1 federal matching funds annually. The additional funding will go straight back into the core mission of the agency and allow them to better manage wildlife and their habitats while providing additional access and opportunities for the sportsmen and women of North Dakota to.

With a greater desire from the public for increased access and enhanced habitat on public lands, Game and Fish has been working hard to meet the needs of the sportsmen and women of the state, as well as the



countless individuals who travel to North Dakota each year to recreate. Game and Fish helps manage and oversee more than one million acres of Wildlife Management Areas and lands private lands enrolled in the PLOTS program. These are areas that both sportsmen and women, and well as wildlife, rely on for habitat enhancements and access. Additionally, they are managing a record number of lakes across the state, and this increase in funding will allow them to continue to do all of that in a responsible manner on behalf of North Dakota residents.

We look forward to working with members of this committee and the rest of the North Dakota legislature as this bill moves through the process. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly and we ask that you move this bill favorably out of committee.

Respectfully,

Cyrus Hunter Baird  
Senior Director of Government Affairs  
Delta Waterfowl Foundation



# **North Dakota**

## **SPORTFISHING CONGRESS**

North Dakota Sportfishing Congress  
Box 2472  
Bismarck, ND 58502-2472

**House Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Hearing for HB 1470  
February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman Anderson, and Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 1470.

My name is Richard Brueckner, and I serve as the President of the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress (NDSFC). The NDSFC is a statewide organization dedicated to preserving, promoting, and improving the quality of sport fishing in North Dakota. As sportsmen, sportswomen, and outdoor recreationists, we support the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's thorough review of its license fees. In many cases, it has been over 12 years since the last fee increase.

One of the most pressing threats to North Dakota's natural resources is the spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS), with zebra mussels being the most dangerous. Once established, they cannot be eradicated. In addition to this challenge, we face costly infrastructure concerns. Many of our dams and reservoirs, built in the 1950s, have exceeded their expected lifespan and require extensive restoration and repair—costs that far exceed the department's current budget.

As you review the proposed license fee adjustments, we also urge the committee to consider increasing the department's reserve funding limits. Specifically, we recommend raising the reserve to \$25 million to ensure the long-term sustainability of outdoor recreation in North Dakota.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your support in securing the future of sport fishing and outdoor recreation for generations to come.

Respectfully,

Richard Brueckner  
President  
North Dakota Sportfishing Congress



**BACKCOUNTRY  
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**  
NORTH DAKOTA

**TESTIMONY OF BROCK WAHL  
NORTH DAKOTA BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS  
HOUSE BILL 1470  
HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE  
February 6, 2025**

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

The North Dakota Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers supports House Bill 1470 and requests a Do Pass recommendation from the committee.

With the current inflationary environment and the core message from the recent Habitat and Hunting Access Summit, these license increases are not only expected, they are needed. We are happy to testify in support of increased funding for our wildlife habitat and access programs, and the department that implements those programs and acts as trustee of our public wildlife assets. In a similar vein, North Dakota Sportsmen need more hunting access. We believe it is imperative that the department has the financial ability to improve and expand access programs across the state to serve a variety of outdoor pursuits. For the previous biennium, over 25 million dollars was spent on the PLOTS program, which should send a clear message that access for sportsmen isn't cheap.

Our only question with House Bill 1470 is, is it enough? North Dakota wildlife has suffered incredible habitat losses totaling in the millions of acres through reductions in CRP, conversion of native prairie, draining of wetlands, and the removal of tree rows. Some of those habitats were supported by programs that had over a hundred million dollars in annual funding. While these license increases are a step in the right direction, they won't be able to compete with that type of funding.

Considered by many to be the father of modern conservation, Aldo Leopold was once quoted saying, "*Conservation will ultimately boil down to rewarding the private landowner who conserves the public interest.*"

We think passing this legislation will only help North Dakota's ability to fund and expand habitat and access programs, and reward landowners who conserve the public interest.

We encourage a Do Pass recommendation from the committee.

Brock Wahl  
Chairman  
North Dakota Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers





TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY  
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
HOUSE BILL 1470  
HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
February 6, 2025

Chairman Porter and Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

For the record, I am John Bradley, Executive Director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF). NDWF supports HB 1470 and requests a Do Pass recommendation from the committee.

We'd like to thank the bill sponsors for bringing this forward. The ND Game & Fish Department hasn't had a fee increase in over a decade. NDWF feels that an increase is needed in order for the department to fulfill their mission and increase wildlife habitat and access in the state, a goal from their Summit in December of 2024 and a rallying cry from sportsmen across the state. The cost to work with landowners to put quality habitat on the ground, the cost to expand access to our lakes and rivers, and the cost to sign up new PLOTS acres are all going to increase in the future and we want the Department to be financially sound in that process.

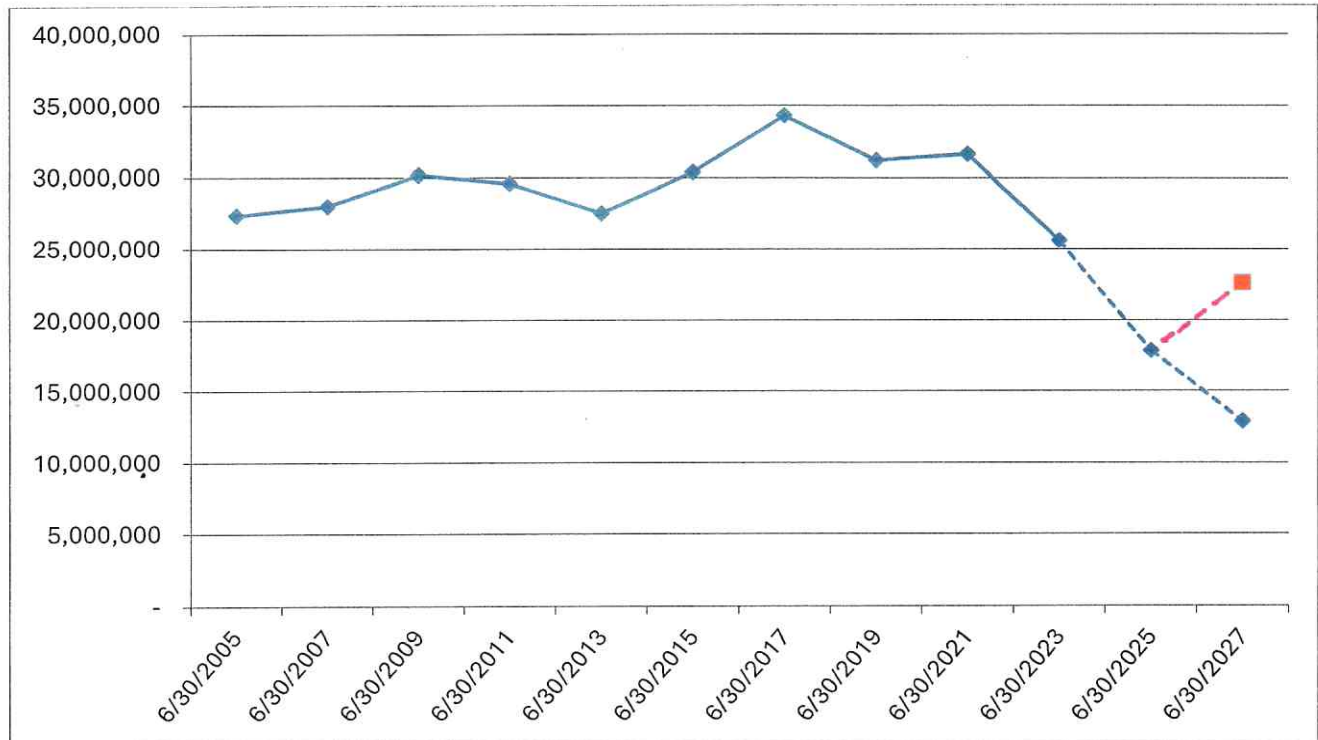
Let's be clear, license fee increases alone won't get us to our goal of over a million acres enrolled in PLOTS and the other habitat goals laid out during the Habitat & Access Summit. License fee increases will allow the Department to lead the initiative, partnering with conservation groups, creating programs that work for landowners, and leveraging other pools of state and federal dollars to get us to where we want to go.

Fee increases are never perfect, but we feel that this bill once amended will provide the Department with the needed resources to keep up with the times, while not pricing out hunters and anglers from participating in their outdoor heritage. We have worked with the Department on a few ways to improve the bill and we look forward to working with the Committee on this issue.

We encourage a Do Pass on HB 1470.



## Game and Fish Fund





House Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Information requested on HB 1470

North Dakota Game and Fish Department  
Jeb Williams, Director  
February 6, 2025

Chairman Porter and members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide the committee with information on HB 1470. First, I would like to remind all of you that the Department is a special fund agency and we don't receive any general fund dollars. Instead, approximately 46% of our revenue comes from federal excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment, while the remaining primary source of our revenue is generated by license sales for hunting, fishing and boating. By state law, the department is required to maintain a \$15 million ending fund balance. This was established first in the late 90's with a \$10 million dollar reserve and then adjusted in 2005 to the current, \$15 million dollar figure. Attached in the information packet we passed out is a graph showing the fund balance (and projected fund balance) along with an informational sheet comparing our neighboring states hunting and fishing fees.

In recent bienniums, the department had sufficient funding in reserve to carry us through following the last, major fee increase which happened in the 2013 legislative session. Many factors have contributed to the increased cost of day-to-day operations in the department. The most obvious is simply inflationary costs. But a desired goal by the Department and the public to grow our outdoor opportunities continues to be the focus. Over the last two bienniums the Department has made significant habitat and access commitments in our private lands program cutting into our reserve fund. The loss of over two million acres of CRP in North Dakota over the last 15 years has had an impact on overall wildlife populations across the state. Sportsmen and women are very engaged on this topic and on many occasions have challenged the department to come up with programs and new ideas that will try to negate or soften the loss of habitat.

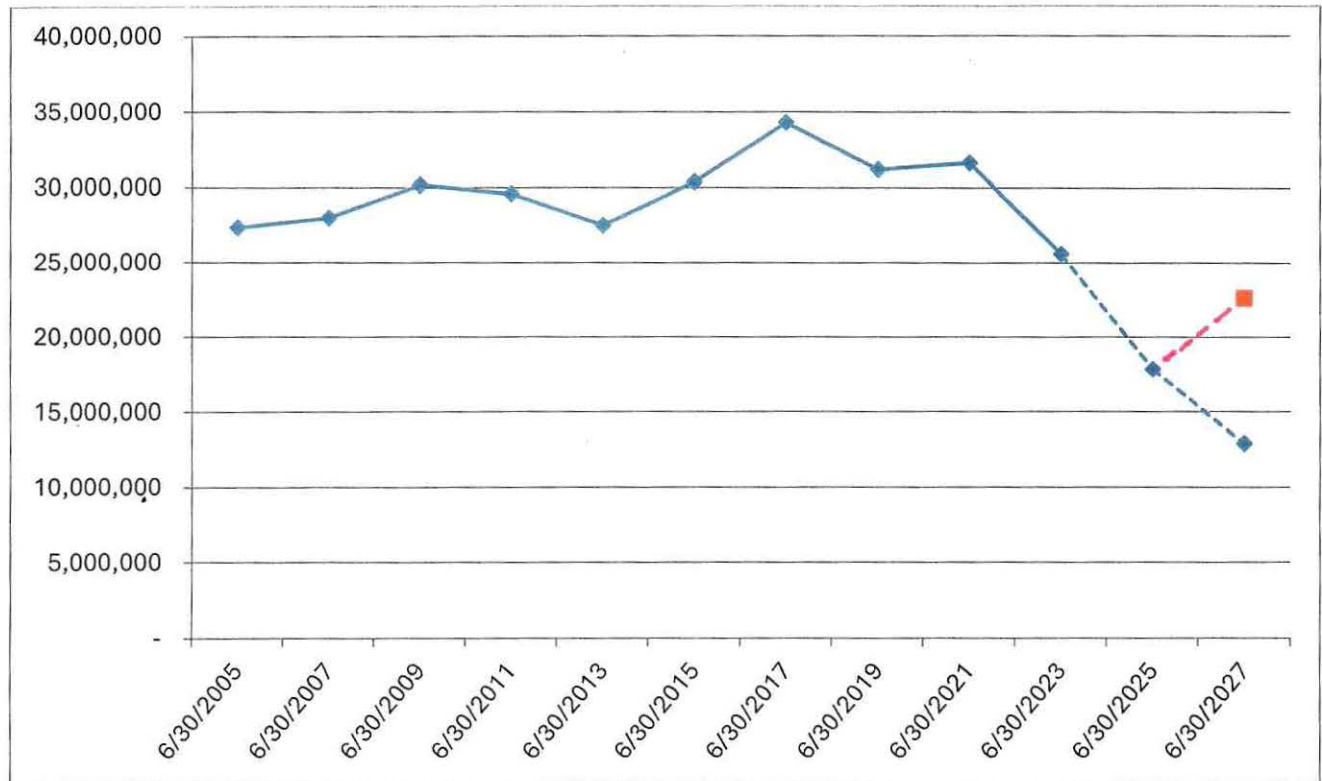
We are currently managing a record number of fishing waters across the state. Monitoring for aquatic nuisance species (ANS) continues to be a very important topic and people are relying on the Department to lead this effort. The demand for development infrastructure in the form of boat ramps, docks, piers, etc. is growing and the cost of providing these is increasing. While we partner with the Department of Water Resources on dam repair projects, these have become extremely expensive and given that one-third of our current fishing waters are those behind darns its important these are addressed.

With the changing landscape in North Dakota's population demographics and increased population, many challenges have been presented to North Dakota's peace officers and our wardens are no exception. They are an integral part of our everyday operation, and their budget consists of mostly license funds.

Our relationship and dialogue with our clientele is extensive and I feel quite confident saying the sporting public is asking for more not less. We also realize there is a fine line to walk on the cost of our licenses. There are avid sportsmen and women in the state who are asking that the fees be increased substantially to support habitat, enforcement, fisheries and access. There are also casual sportsmen and women, many who are older and retired, that are on fixed incomes, that don't want to be priced out of the outdoors experience. During last December's habitat and access summit where over 350 people attended, one of the major topics of discussion is how we can work together to maintain and increase our great opportunities in the state and increasing licensing fees was a common theme. Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on a very important topic.



## Game and Fish Fund





## RESIDENT

| Category                       | LICENSE TYPE  | ND FEE   | SD FEE    | MN FEE    | MT FEE    | PROPOSED    |
|--------------------------------|---|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Fishing & Hunting Prerequisite | Fishing, Hunting, & Furbearer Certificate; Conservation; Habitat Stamp; Agent | \$ 1.00  | \$ 10.00  | \$ 1.00   | \$ 10.00  | \$ 2.00     |
| Fishing                        | Annual  | \$ 16.00 | \$ 31.00  | \$ 25.00  | \$ 21.00  | \$ 25.00    |
|                                | 65 or older   | \$ 5.00  | \$ 17.00  |           | \$ 10.50  | \$ 10.00    |
|                                | Married Couple  | \$ 22.00 |           | \$ 40.00  |           | \$ 40.00    |
|                                | Totally or permanently disabled   | \$ 5.00  |           |           |           | \$ 10.00    |
|                                | Veteran with a 50% service-related disability                                 | \$ 5.00  |           |           |           | \$ 10.00    |
|                                | Paddlefish Tag  | \$ 10.00 | \$ 30.00  |           | \$ 11.50  | \$ 15.00    |
| Combination                    | Combination   | \$ 50.00 | \$ 55.00  | \$ 57.00  | \$ 62.00  | \$ 60.00    |
|                                | Veteran (100% service-related disability) Combined Hunting                    | \$ 3.00  |           |           |           | \$ 10.00    |
| Hunting Prerequisite           | General Game and Habitat  | \$ 20.00 |           |           | \$ 10.00  | \$ 20.00    |
| Small Game                     | Small Game (16 & older)   | \$ 10.00 | \$ 33.00  | \$ 22.00  | \$ 7.50   | \$ 20.00    |
| Furbearer                      | Furbearer (16 & older)  | \$ 15.00 | \$ 31.00  |           |           | \$ 20.00    |
| Waterfowl                      | Early Canada Goose  | \$ 5.00  | \$ 15.00  |           |           | \$ 10.00    |
|                                | Spring Light Goose  |          |           | \$ 2.50   |           |             |
|                                | Crane   | \$ 10.00 |           | \$ 3.00   |           | \$ 10.00    |
| Turkey                         | Spring Turkey   | \$ 15.00 | \$ 22.00  | \$ 26.00  | \$ 6.50   | \$ 20.00    |
|                                | Fall Turkey   | \$ 15.00 | \$ 14.00  | \$ 26.00  | \$ 6.50   | \$ 20.00    |
| Swan                           | Tundra Swan   | \$ 10.00 | \$ 15.00  |           |           | \$ 10.00    |
| Deer                           | Application Fee   | \$ -     |           |           | \$ 5.00   | \$ -        |
|                                | Deer Gun  | \$ 30.00 | \$ 45.00  | \$ 34.00  | \$ 16.00  | \$ 35.00    |
|                                | Youth Deer Gun (15 and younger)   | \$ 10.00 |           | \$ 5.00   |           | \$ 10.00    |
|                                | Deer Bow  | \$ 30.00 | \$ 45.00  | \$ 34.00  |           | \$ 35.00    |
|                                | Youth Deer Bow (15 and younger)   | \$ 10.00 |           |           |           | \$ 10.00    |
| Pronghorn                      | Application Fee   |          |           |           | \$ 5.00   | \$ -        |
|                                | Pronghorn   | \$ 30.00 | \$ 45.00  |           | \$ 14.00  | \$ 35.00    |
|                                | Youth Pronghorn (15 & younger)  | \$ 10.00 |           |           |           | \$ 10.00    |
| Elk                            | Application Fee   | \$ 5.00  | \$ 10.00  | \$ 5.00   | \$ 5.00   | \$ 5.00     |
|                                | Elk   | \$ 30.00 | \$ 195.00 | \$ 288.00 | \$ 20.00  | \$ 35.00    |
|                                | Youth Elk (15 & younger)  | \$ 10.00 |           |           |           | \$ 10.00    |
| Moose                          | Application Fee   | \$ 5.00  |           | \$ 4.00   | \$ 10.00  | \$ 5.00     |
|                                | Moose   | \$ 30.00 |           | \$ 356.00 | \$ 125.00 | \$ 35.00    |
|                                | Youth Moose (15 & younger)  | \$ 10.00 |           |           |           | \$ 10.00    |
| Bighorn Sheep                  | Application Fee   | \$ 5.00  |           |           | \$ 10.00  | \$ 5.00     |
|                                | Sheep   | \$ 30.00 | \$ 294.00 |           |           | \$ 35.00    |
|                                | Youth Sheep (15 & younger)  | \$ 10.00 |           |           |           | \$ 10.00    |
| Special                        | Bonus Points  | \$ 30.00 | \$ 20.00  |           | \$ 15.00  | \$ 35.00    |
| CATEGORY                       | LICENSE TYPE  | ND FEE   | SD FEE    | MN FEE    | MT FEE    | ND PROPOSED |
| Watercraft                     | < 16' (3-year registration)   | \$ 18.00 | \$ 54.00  | \$ 36.00  | \$ 65.50  | \$ 30.00    |
| Watercraft                     | 16' - 20' (3-year registration)   | \$ 36.00 | \$ 90.00  | \$ 59.00  | \$ 125.50 | \$ 45.00    |
| Watercraft                     | > 20' (3-year registration)   | \$ 45.00 | \$ 165.00 | \$ 164.00 | \$ 295.50 | \$ 60.00    |

**NONRESIDENT**

| CATEGORY                       | LICENSE TYPE  | ND FEE    | SD FEE    | MN FEE    | MT FEE    | ND PROPOSED |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Fishing & Hunting prerequisite | Fishing, Hunting, & Furbearer Certificate; Conservation; Habitat Stamp; Agent | \$ 2.00   | \$ 25.00  | \$ 1.00   | \$ 10.00  | \$ 5.00     |
| Fishing                        | Annual  | \$ 45.00  | \$ 80.00  | \$ 51.00  | \$ 100.00 | \$ 60.00    |
|                                | Married Couple  | \$ 60.00  |           | \$ 68.00  |           | \$ 100.00   |
|                                | 10-Day  | \$ 35.00  |           |           |           | \$ 50.00    |
|                                | Three-Day   | \$ 25.00  | \$ 45.00  | \$ 36.00  |           | \$ 40.00    |
|                                | Five-Day  |           |           |           | \$ 56.00  |             |
|                                | Paddlefish Tag  | \$ 25.50  | \$ 50.00  |           | \$ 20.00  | \$ 35.00    |
| Hunting Prerequisite           | General Game and Habitat  | \$ 20.00  |           |           | \$ 15.00  | \$ 20.00    |
| Small Game                     | Small Game (16 & older)   | \$ 100.00 | \$ 136.00 | \$ 102.00 | \$ 110.00 | \$ 150.00   |
| Furbearer                      | Furbearer & Nongame   | \$ 40.00  | \$ 325.00 | \$ 183.00 |           | \$ 50.00    |
|                                | Nongame   | \$ 15.00  |           |           |           | \$ 25.00    |
|                                | Reciprocal Trapping   | \$ 350.00 | \$ 350.00 | \$ 84.00  | \$ 250.00 | \$ 350.00   |
| Waterfowl                      | Early Canada Goose (16 & older)   | \$ 50.00  | \$ 45.00  |           | \$ 6.00   | \$ 50.00    |
|                                | Youth Early Canada Goose (15 & younger)                                       | \$ 5.00   |           |           |           |             |
|                                | Spring Light Goose (16 & older)   | \$ 50.00  | \$ 55.00  | \$ 2.50   | \$ 16.00  | \$ 50.00    |
|                                | Crane   | \$ 30.00  |           |           | \$ 5.00   | \$ 30.00    |
|                                | Youth Crane (15 & younger)  | \$ 10.00  |           |           |           |             |
|                                | Statewide waterfowl (16 & older)  | \$ 150.00 | \$ 139.00 |           | \$ 50.00  | \$ -        |
|                                | Zone-restricted waterfowl (16 & older)  | \$ 100.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 102.00 |           | \$ 150.00   |
| Turkey                         | Turkey  | \$ 80.00  | \$ 115.00 | \$ 96.00  | \$ 115.00 | \$ 100.00   |
|                                | Youth Turkey (15 & younger)   | \$ 15.00  |           | \$ 5.00   |           |             |
| Swan                           | Tundra Swan   | \$ 30.00  | \$ 34.00  |           | \$ 15.00  | \$ 50.00    |
|                                | Youth Tundra Swan (15 & younger)  | \$ 10.00  |           |           |           |             |
| Deer                           | 1st Lottery Deer Gun application fee  | \$ 5.00   | \$ 5.00   |           | \$ 5.00   | \$ 5.00     |
|                                | Deer Gun  | \$ 250.00 | \$ 369.00 | \$ 185.00 | \$ 704.00 | \$ 350.00   |
|                                | Youth Deer Gun (15 and younger)   | \$ 10.00  |           | \$ 5.00   | \$ 37.50  |             |
|                                | After the second lottery, deer gun  | \$ 50.00  |           |           |           | \$ 50.00    |
|                                | Deer Bow  | \$ 250.00 | \$ 369.00 | \$ 185.00 | \$ 704.00 | \$ 350.00   |
| Special                        | Bonus Points  | \$ -      | \$ 20.00  |           | \$ 25.00  | \$ 35.00    |

| License Description                     | Current Fees |             |       | Proposed Bill |             |       | Proposed Amendments |             |       |
|---|--------------|-------------|-------|---------------|-------------|-------|---------------------|-------------|-------|
|   | Resident     | Nonresident | Youth | Resident      | Nonresident | Youth | Resident            | Nonresident | Youth |
| Fee                                     | Fee          | Fee         | Fee   | Fee           | Fee         | Fee   | Fee                 | Fee         | Fee   |
| Certificate                             | 1            | 2           |       | 5             | 5           |       | 2                   |             |       |
| Combination                             | 50           |             |       | 60            |             |       |                     |             |       |
| General Game and Habitat                | 20           | 20          | 20    |               |             |       |                     |             |       |
|   |              |             |       |               |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Fishing Annual                          | 16           | 45          |       | 25            | 60          |       |                     |             |       |
| Fishing Married Couple                  | 22           | 60          |       | 40            | 100         |       |                     |             |       |
| Fishing 10-day                          |              | 35          |       |               | 50          |       |                     |             |       |
| Fishing 3-day                           |              | 25          |       |               | 40          |       |                     |             |       |
| Fishing Senior                          | 5            |             |       | 10            |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Fishing Total Disabled                  | 5            |             |       | 10            |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Fishing Service Disabled                | 5            |             |       | 10            |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Hunting Service Disabled                | 3            |             |       | 10            |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Paddlefish                              | 10           | 25.5        |       | 30            | 30.5        |       | 15                  | 35          |       |
|   |              |             |       |               |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Small game                              | 10           | 100         |       | 20            | 120         |       |                     | 150         |       |
| Furbearer                               | 15           |             |       | 20            |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Federal Waterfowl Stamp<br>(Duck Stamp) | 29           | 29          |       |               |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Waterfowl*                              |              | 100/150     |       |               | 120         |       |                     | 150         |       |
| Waterfowl - Statewide*                  | 0            |             |       | 10            |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Early canada goose                      | 5            | 50          |       | 10            |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Spring white goose                      |              | 50          |       |               |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Crane                                   | 10           | 30          |       |               |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Swan                                    | 10           | 30          |       |               | 50          |       |                     |             |       |
| Spring turkey                           | 15           |             |       | 20            |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Fall turkey                             | 15           | 80          |       | 20            | 100         |       |                     |             |       |
| Fall Turkey Remaining                   |              | 15          |       |               |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Turkey Flock Reduction                  | 15           |             |       | 20            |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Nongame                                 |              | 15          |       |               |             |       |                     | 25          |       |
| Furbearer & Nongame                     |              | 40          |       |               | 50          |       |                     |             |       |
|   |              |             |       |               |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Big game (deer)                         | 30           | 250         | 10    |               | 350         |       | 35                  |             |       |
| Big game (deer-bow herd<br>reduction)   | 30           | 50          | 10    |               |             |       | 35                  |             |       |
| Big game (WT Guide/Outfitter)           |              | 250         |       |               |             |       |                     | 350         |       |
| Big game (elk)                          | 30           |             | 10    |               |             |       | 35                  |             |       |
| Big game (moose)                        | 30           |             | 10    |               |             |       | 35                  |             |       |
| Big game (sheep)                        | 30           | 100         | 10    |               |             |       | 35                  |             |       |
| Big game (pronghorn)                    | 30           |             | 10    |               |             |       | 35                  |             |       |
| Bonus Point                             | 30           |             | 10    |               |             |       |                     |             |       |
|   |              |             |       |               |             |       |                     |             |       |
| <b>Watercraft Licenses</b>              |              |             |       |               |             |       |                     |             |       |
| ANS Motorboat Fee                       |              | 15          |       |               |             |       |                     |             |       |
| ANS Motorboat Fee - 3 yr                | 15           |             |       |               |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Registration < 16'                      | 18           |             |       |               |             |       | 30                  |             |       |
| Registration 16-20'                     | 36           |             |       |               |             |       | 45                  |             |       |
| Registration >= 20'                     | 45           |             |       |               |             |       | 60                  |             |       |



|                                | Current Fees |             |       | Proposed Bill |             |       | Proposed Amendments |             |       |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------|---------------|-------------|-------|---------------------|-------------|-------|
|                                | Resident     | Nonresident | Youth | Resident      | Nonresident | Youth | Resident            | Nonresident | Youth |
| Commercial Hunting Licenses    | Fee          | Fee         | Fee   | Fee           | Fee         | Fee   | Fee                 | Fee         | Fee   |
| Furbuyer and Shipper           | 8            |             |       |               |             |       | 50                  |             |       |
| Furbuyer Traveling Agent       | 20           |             |       |               |             |       | 50                  |             |       |
| NR furbuyer                    |              | 50          |       |               |             |       |                     | 250         |       |
| Taxidermy                      | 25           |             |       |               |             |       | 40                  |             |       |
| Ship Tags/Leg Bands            | 3            |             |       |               |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Fishing Outfitter              | 100          | 400         |       |               |             |       | 250                 | 500         |       |
| Hunting Guide                  | 100          | 400         |       |               |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Hunting Outfitter < 10K acres  | 250          | 2000        |       |               |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Hunting Outfitter >= 10K acres | 500          |             |       |               |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Hunting Outfitter Day Lease    | 200          | 200         |       |               |             |       |                     |             |       |
|                                |              |             |       |               |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Wholesale bait vendor          | 50           |             |       |               |             |       | 70                  |             |       |
| Wholesale bait class A         |              | 500         |       |               |             |       |                     | 750         |       |
| Wholesale bait class B         |              | 250         |       |               |             |       |                     | 400         |       |
| Wholesale bait tags            | 5            |             |       |               |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Retail bait                    | 15           |             |       |               |             |       | 20                  |             |       |
| Retail bait w/suckers          | 75           |             |       |               |             |       | 100                 |             |       |
| Private fish hatchery          | 75           |             |       |               |             |       | 100                 |             |       |
| Commercial frog                |              |             |       |               |             |       | 0                   | 0           |       |
| Shooting preserve              | 100          |             |       |               |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Commercial clam                | 2000         | 2000        |       |               |             |       | 0                   | 0           |       |
| Scientific Collectors          | 10           | 10          |       |               |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Commercial Fishing Hoop Nets   | 15           |             |       |               |             |       | 30                  |             |       |
| Commercial Fishing Seine (50') | 15           |             |       |               |             |       | 30                  |             |       |
| Falconry                       | 150          |             |       |               |             |       |                     |             |       |
| Amateur Dog Trainer            |              | 25          |       |               |             |       |                     | 100         |       |
| Professional Dog Trainer       | 10           | 100         |       |               |             |       | 20                  | 100         |       |

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Energy and Natural Resources Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1470  
2/6/2025

|                                       |
|---------------------------------------|
| Relating to hunting and fishing fees. |
|---------------------------------------|

3:50 p.m. Chairman Porter called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman Anderson, Vice Chair Novak,  
Representatives: Dockter, Hagert, Headland, Heinert, Johnson, Marschall, Olson, Ruby,  
Conmy, Foss

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee action.

3:52 p.m. Representative Ruby moved to adopt amendment 25.0842.03001.

3:52 p.m. Representative Dockter seconded the motion.

Voice vote: Motion carried

3:54 p.m. Representative Headland moved a Do Pass as amended.

3:54 p.m. Representative Ruby seconded the motion.

| Representatives                 | Vote |
|---------------------------------|------|
| Representative Todd Porter      | Y    |
| Representative Dick Anderson    | Y    |
| Representative Anna Novak       | Y    |
| Representative Liz Conmy        | Y    |
| Representative Jason Dockter    | Y    |
| Representative Austin Foss      | Y    |
| Representative Jared c. Hagert  | Y    |
| Representative Craig Headland   | Y    |
| Representative Pat D. Heinert   | Y    |
| Representative Jorin Johnson    | Y    |
| Representative Andrew Marschall | Y    |
| Representative Jeremy L. Olson  | Y    |
| Representative Matthew Ruby     | Y    |

Motion carried: 13-0-0

Bill carrier: Vice Chairman Anderson

3:55 p.m. Chairman Porter closed the meeting

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

HB 1470

02-06-25

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*Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk*

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO**

MLB  
2/13/25  
1 of 6

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1470**

Introduced by

Representatives Bosch, Porter

Senator Patten

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact ~~section~~sections 20.1-03-12, 20.1-03-36.1, and  
2 20.1-04-12.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to hunting ~~and~~, fishing, and gun dog  
3 activity fees.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 20.1-03-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **20.1-03-12. Schedule of fees for licenses and permits.**

8 The fees collected under this section for licenses and permits must be deposited with the  
9 state treasurer and credited to the game and fish fund, except aquatic nuisance species fees  
10 must be deposited with the state treasurer and credited to the aquatic nuisance species  
11 program fund. Forty-five dollars of each nonresident big game hunting license fee must be used  
12 for the private land initiative. The various license and permit fees are as follows:

- 13 1. For a resident, age sixteen and over, small game hunting license, ~~ten~~twenty dollars.
- 14 2. For a nonresident small game hunting license, ~~one hundred~~one hundred twenty one  
15 hundred fifty dollars.
- 16 3. For a resident big game hunting license, ~~thirty~~thirty-five dollars, except the fee for a  
17 licensee under age sixteen is ten dollars, except as provided in a gubernatorial  
18 proclamation issued pursuant to section 20.1-08-04.1.
- 19 4. Except for a nonresident who participates on the same basis as a resident in a lottery  
20 for deer licenses remaining after the second lottery for residents under subsection 4 of

1 section 20.1-03-11, for a nonresident big game hunting license, ~~two hundred fiftythree~~  
2 hundred fifty dollars, and for a nonresident bow license, ~~two hundred fiftythree~~  
3 hundred fifty dollars, and a nonrefundable five dollar application fee must accompany  
4 any lottery license fee under this subsection, except as provided in a gubernatorial  
5 proclamation issued pursuant to section 20.1-08-04.1. For a nonresident who  
6 participates on the same basis as a resident in a lottery for deer licenses remaining  
7 after the second lottery for residents, fifty dollars.

8 5. For a resident fur-bearer license, ~~fifteen~~twenty dollars.

9 6. For a resident fishing license, ~~sixteen~~twenty-five dollars, except that for a resident  
10 sixty-five years or over, a resident totally or permanently disabled, or a resident  
11 disabled veteran who has a fifty percent service-connected disability as determined by  
12 the department of veterans' affairs or has an extra-schedular rating to include  
13 individual unemployability that brings the veteran's total disability ratio to fifty percent,  
14 the license fee is ~~five~~ten dollars.

15 7. For a nonresident fishing license, ~~forty-five~~sixty dollars.

16 8. For a resident husband and wife fishing license, ~~twenty-two~~forty dollars.

17 9. For a nonresident nongame hunting license, ~~fifteen~~twenty-five dollars.

18 10. For a resident wild turkey permit, ~~fifteen~~twenty dollars.

19 11. For an annual general game license, three dollars.

20 12. For a license to a nonresident buyer or shipper of green furs, or that person's agent,  
21 the amount that the nonresident buyer or shipper of green furs would pay for a  
22 nonresident buyer or shipper of green furs license or comparable license in that  
23 person's state of residence, or fifty dollars, whichever is greater.

24 13. For a license to a resident buyer or shipper of green furs, eight dollars for each place  
25 of business maintained by that person within this state.

26 14. For a license to a resident traveling agent, buyer, or shipper of green furs, twenty  
27 dollars.

28 15. For an annual license to practice taxidermy, ~~twenty-five~~forty dollars.

29 16. For a permit to ship, by a person having a resident hunting license, during the  
30 respective open seasons, not to exceed in any one season twenty-five game birds, to



1 points within this state other than that person's home or to points outside this state,  
2 three dollars.

3 17. For a permit to make collections of protected birds and animals for scientific purposes,  
4 ten dollars.

5 18. For a motorboat certificate of number and license: Each motorboat under sixteen feet  
6 [4.88 meters] in length, and all canoes, regardless of length, powered by a motor,  
7 ~~eighteen~~thirty dollars. Each motorboat sixteen feet [4.88 meters] in length and over but  
8 shorter than twenty feet [6.1 meters] in length, excluding canoes, ~~thirty-six~~forty-five  
9 dollars. Each motorboat twenty feet [6.1 meters] in length or over excluding canoes,  
10 ~~forty-five~~sixty dollars.

11 19. For the taking of undesirable fish from the waters of this state pursuant to section  
12 20.1-06-05, ~~fifteen~~thirty dollars for each hoop-net ~~or~~ trap, ~~and fifteen dollars for each~~or  
13 seine of fifty feet [15.24 meters] or any fraction thereof.

14 20. For a resident paddlefish tag annual license, ~~ten~~thirty~~fifteen~~ dollars per tag.

15 21. For a nonresident paddlefish tag annual license, ~~twenty-five~~thirty ~~dollars and fifty~~  
16 ~~cents~~thirty-five dollars per tag.

17 22. For an annual resident license to sell minnows or other live bait at wholesale,  
18 ~~fifty~~seventy dollars.

19 23. For an annual license to sell minnows or other live bait at retail, ~~fifteen~~twenty dollars,  
20 except the fee is ~~seventy-five~~one hundred dollars if white suckers are sold.

21 24. For an annual license to operate a private fish hatchery, ~~seventy-five~~one hundred  
22 dollars.

23 25. ~~For a resident commercial frog license, fifty dollars.~~

24 ~~26. For a nonresident commercial frog license, two hundred dollars.~~

25 ~~27. For a resident frog license, three dollars.~~

26 ~~28. For a resident husband and wife frog license, five dollars.~~

27 ~~29.~~ For a shooting preserve operating permit, one hundred dollars, plus thirty cents per  
28 acre [.40 hectare] for each acre [.40 hectare].

29 ~~30. For a nonresident waterfowl hunting license, one hundred~~one hundred twenty dollars.

30 ~~31.26.~~ For a nonresident husband and wife fishing license, ~~sixty~~one hundred dollars.

31 ~~32.27.~~ For a nonresident short-term three-day fishing license, ~~twenty-five~~forty dollars.

- 1 ~~33.28.~~ For a nonresident fur-bearer and nongame hunting license, ~~forty~~fifty dollars.
- 2 ~~34.29.~~ For a combination license, ~~fifty~~sixty dollars.
- 3 ~~35.30.~~ For a white-tailed deer license sold to certified guides or outfitters and provided by
- 4 them to nonresidents, two hundred fifty dollars.
- 5 ~~36.31.~~ For a resident swan license, ten dollars.
- 6 ~~37.32.~~ For a nonresident swan license, ~~thirty~~fifty dollars.
- 7 ~~38.33.~~ For a resident sandhill crane license, ten dollars.
- 8 ~~39.34.~~ For a nonresident sandhill crane license, thirty dollars.
- 9 ~~40.~~ ~~For a resident commercial clam license, one hundred dollars.~~
- 10 ~~41.~~ ~~For a nonresident commercial clam license, one thousand dollars.~~
- 11 ~~42.~~ ~~For a commercial clam dealer's permit, two thousand dollars. In addition, the applicant~~
- 12 ~~shall submit to the director a surety bond in the sum of two thousand dollars.~~
- 13 ~~43.35.~~ For an annual class B nonresident license to sell minnows or other live bait at
- 14 wholesale, ~~two hundred fifty~~four hundred dollars.
- 15 ~~44.36.~~ For a bighorn sheep license issued to a nonresident, five hundred dollars.
- 16 ~~45.37.~~ For a nonresident reciprocal trapping license, three hundred fifty dollars.
- 17 ~~46.38.~~ For a nonresident spring white goose license, fifty dollars.
- 18 ~~47.39.~~ For a resident certificate fee, ~~one dollar~~five~~two~~ dollars, and for a nonresident certificate
- 19 fee, ~~two~~five dollars. An agent may not charge a service fee for issuing a resident or
- 20 nonresident certificate fee.
- 21 ~~48.40.~~ For a nonresident short-term ten-day fishing license, ~~thirty-five~~fifty dollars.
- 22 ~~49.41.~~ For a nonresident wild turkey permit, ~~eighty~~one hundred dollars.
- 23 ~~50.42.~~ For a ~~statewide~~ nonresident waterfowl hunting license, one hundred fifty dollars.
- 24 ~~51.43.~~ For an annual class A nonresident license to sell minnows or other live bait at
- 25 wholesale, ~~five hundred~~seven hundred fifty dollars.
- 26 ~~52.44.~~ For a resident early Canada goose season license, ~~five~~ten dollars.
- 27 ~~53.45.~~ For a nonresident early Canada goose season license, fifty dollars.
- 28 ~~54.46.~~ For a resident disabled veteran combined general game, habitat stamp, small game,
- 29 and fur-bearer license, ~~three~~ten dollars.
- 30 ~~55.47.~~ For each motorboat licensed in this state, an aquatic nuisance species fee of fifteen
- 31 dollars valid concurrent with motorboat licensure.



56.48. For each motorboat operated on waters of this state and not licensed in this state, an aquatic nuisance species fee of fifteen dollars for the calendar year in which it is paid.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 20.1-03-36.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**20.1-03-36.1. Fee for guide or outfitter license.**

1. The annual fee to receive a hunting guide license is one hundred dollars for a resident and four hundred dollars for a nonresident.
2. The annual fee to receive a fishing outfitter license is ~~one hundred~~ two hundred fifty dollars for a resident and ~~four hundred~~ five hundred dollars for a nonresident. The annual fee to receive a fishing outfitter license is ~~fifty~~ one hundred twenty-five dollars for a resident and ~~two hundred~~ two hundred fifty dollars for a nonresident if the individual applying for the license has paid for a hunting guide or outfitter license for the same year.
3. The annual fee for a resident to receive a hunting outfitter license is two hundred fifty dollars for under ten thousand acres [4046.86 hectares] and five hundred dollars for ten thousand acres [4046.86 hectares] and over on which the outfitter provides services. The annual fee for a nonresident to receive a hunting outfitter license is two thousand dollars. The acreage must be presented by the county with a list of lessors by county in every application for outfitter licensure. The annual permit fee for day leasing is two hundred dollars. The acreage day leased by county for the preceding year must be provided to receive a day leasing permit.
4. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a license is not required for a person to provide services on real property that person owns or leases for the primary pursuit of bona fide agricultural interests, for a nonprofit organization registered with the secretary of state, or for a person that acts as a booking agent for a person that legally conducts business as an outfitter. However, a person who has been convicted of a state or federal criminal game or fish violation within the last three years or whose license to hunt or fish is under suspension or revocation is not exempt from licensure and is subject to subsection 5 of section 20.1-03-37. A booking agent that refers an individual to an outfitter under this subsection may receive a fee or commission for the referral. The director shall determine the number of acres by county exempted from



1 licensure by this subsection and shall publish the results. The director shall provide  
2 written information to the public on the possible liability exposure for outfitting under  
3 this subsection and on the benefits of liability insurance and proper training. For  
4 purposes of this subsection, a booking agent means a person that receives only a fee  
5 for referring or marketing the services of a legal outfitter in this state.

6 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 20.1-04-12.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **20.1-04-12.1. Gun dog activities - Permit required - Fee.**

- 9 1. The director shall issue a permit for the following gun dog activities:
- 10 a. The training exercises of a resident or nonresident professional trainer;
- 11 b. The training exercises of a nonresident amateur trainer who brings more than  
12 four gun dogs into the state; and
- 13 c. Hosting field trials that use live wild birds.
- 14 2. The application for the permit must be in a form prescribed by the director and must be  
15 accompanied by the appropriate fee.
- 16 3. Upon the receipt of the completed application and fee the director shall issue a permit  
17 for a specified period of time and shall require the permitholder to submit an annual  
18 report.
- 19 4. The fees for the permits are:
- 20 a. For a resident professional gun dog trainer for training exercises or hosting field  
21 trials, ~~ten~~twenty dollars.
- 22 b. For a nonresident professional or amateur gun dog trainer who brings more than  
23 four gun dogs into the state for training exercises or hosting field trials, one  
24 hundred dollars.
- 25 ~~c. For a permit to a nonresident amateur who brings more than four gun dogs into~~  
26 ~~this state, twenty-five dollars.~~
- 27 5. For purposes of this section, a professional trainer is a person who trains any breed of  
28 gun dog for remuneration that is the basis for that person's livelihood.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
HB 1470**

**Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Porter, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0842.03001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1470 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

**2025 SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**HB 1470**

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Energy and Natural Resources Committee Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

HB 1470  
3/14/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 20.1-03-12, 20.1-03-36.1, and 20.1-04-12.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to hunting, fishing, and gun dog activity fees.

10:34 a.m. Chairman Patten opened the hearing.

Members present:

Chairman Patten, Vice Chairman Kessel, Senators: Beard, Boehm, Enget, Gerhardt, and Van Oosting.

### Discussion Topics:

- License fee adjustments
- Fund balance management
- Habitat and access initiatives
- Hunting guide regulations

10:34 a.m. Representative Bosch introduced the bill, proposed an amendment, and submitted testimony in favor #41542.

10:36 a.m. John Bradley, North Dakota Wildlife Federation, submitted testimony in favor #41460.

10:38 a.m. Brock Wahl, Chairman, North Dakota Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, submitted testimony in favor #41382.

10:41 a.m. Shanda Morgan, Secretary of the Senate, testified in favor and submitted testimony #41558 and #41555.

10:47 a.m. Jeremy Doan, Outfitting Business Owner, testified in favor and submitted testimony #41549.

10:53 a.m. Jeb Williams, Director, ND Game and Fish Department, testified in favor and submitted testimony #41550.

### Additional written testimony:

Richard A. Brueckner, President of North Dakota Sportfishing Congress, submitted testimony in favor #41427.

Mary Massad, President of ND Water Users Association, submitted testimony in favor #41364.

11:08 a.m. Chairman Patten closed the hearing.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

HB 1470

3/14/2025

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*Kendra McCann, Committee Clerk*



*DEDICATED TO PROTECTING, DEVELOPING, AND MANAGING NORTH DAKOTA'S WATER RESOURCES*  
 PO Box 2254, Bismarck, ND 58502-2254 701-223-4615 • 701-223-4645 (Fax)

**Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
 Hearing for HB 1470  
 March 14, 2025**

**Testimony of Mary Massad, President, North Dakota Water Users Association**

Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1470. My name is Mary Massad, and I am the president of the North Dakota Water Users Association. The Water Users Association is the state-wide member organization dedicated to protecting, developing, and managing North Dakota's water resources. We have more than 150 members including local, statewide and regional organizations in North Dakota who have an active interest in water.

We are supportive of the collaborative work of the legislature, the Game and Fish Department and industry stakeholders to review fees assessed by the Department to support the important work they do. One important mission of the Game and Fish Department is preventing the spread of aquatic nuisance species (ANS).

As the threat of ANS, particularly zebra mussels, grows, additional work will need to be done to curb the spread through inspection and education. Zebra mussels are especially damaging to any type of infrastructure within an infected body of water, including water supply and irrigation intakes. Today, zebra mussels are present in the Missouri River in South Dakota. We must all work diligently to prevent their spread into the Missouri River here. Introduction of zebra mussels in the Missouri River would impact major infrastructure up and down the river including:

- intakes for major water supply systems like the Southwest Pipeline Project and Northwest Area Water Supply project
- numerous water supply systems for communities like Williston and Bismarck
- irrigation intakes
- power production at the Garrison Dam
- recreational opportunities, particularly on beaches and sandbars in the river

Once introduced, zebra mussels can NOT be eradicated. These thumbnail-sized mollusks spread rapidly; a single female mussel can produce about a half a billion offspring in her three-to five-year life span. It only takes one infected boat to introduce zebra mussels and infect an entire body of water, creating a devastating ripple effect to the entire waterway. This is why a robust inspection strategy is vital to prevention.

Game and Fish funds ANS activities through both dedicated fees and federal funding. While the goal of HB 1470 is to ensure the department maintains its needed reserves, we would ask that fees that fund ANS activities also be considered. The costs to meet the growing needs associated with ANS are rising. It seems appropriate to also raise ANS fees as part of this comprehensive review of Game and Fish's license fees.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.





**BACKCOUNTRY  
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**  
NORTH DAKOTA

**TESTIMONY OF BROCK WAHL  
NORTH DAKOTA BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS  
HOUSE BILL 1470  
SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE  
March 14, 2025**

Chairman Patten and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

The North Dakota Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers supports House Bill 1470 and requests a Do Pass recommendation from the committee.

With the current inflationary environment and the core message from the recent Habitat and Hunting Access Summit, these license increases are not only expected, they are needed. We are happy to testify in support of increased support for our wildlife habitat and access programs, and the department that implements those programs and acts as trustee of our public wildlife assets. We believe it is imperative that the department has the financial ability to improve and expand habitat and access programs across the state to serve a variety of outdoor pursuits. For the previous biennium, over 25 million dollars was spent on the PLOTS program, which should send a clear message that access for sportsmen isn't cheap.

Our only question with House Bill 1470 is, is it enough? North Dakota wildlife has suffered incredible habitat losses totaling in the millions of acres through reductions in CRP, conversion of native prairie, draining of wetlands, and the removal of tree rows. Some of those habitats were supported by programs that had over a hundred million dollars in annual funding. While these license increases are a step in the right direction, they won't be able to compete with that type of funding.

Considered by many to be the father of modern conservation, Aldo Leopold was once quoted saying, "*Conservation will ultimately boil down to rewarding the private landowner who conserves the public interest.*"

We think passing this legislation will only help North Dakota's ability to fund and expand habitat and access programs, and reward landowners who conserve the public interest.

We encourage a Do Pass recommendation from the committee.

Brock Wahl  
Chairman  
North Dakota Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers





# North Dakota

## SPORTFISHING CONGRESS

North Dakota Sportfishing Congress  
Box 2472  
Bismarck, ND 58502-2472  
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**ND Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Hearing for HB 1470  
March 14<sup>th</sup> 2025**

Chairman Dale Patten, Vice Chairman Greg Kessel and Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Richard Brueckner, I serve as President of the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress (NDSFC). The NDSFC is a statewide organization dedicated to preserving, promoting and improving the quality of sport fishing in North Dakota. As sportsmen, sportswomen and outdoor recreationists, we support the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's thorough review of its license fees. After reviewing the testimony and supporting material, including those submitted by Director Jeb Williams, we fully support the recommended fee adjustments.

However, we believe that an **Industrial Inspection and Decontamination Fee** should be included in this legislation. The cost associated with **Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS)** inspections of industrial equipment, conducted by the North Dakota Game and Fish Departments, ANS division should not be borne by sportsmen and sportswomen through license fees.

According to available data, in 2024 alone the department inspected approximately **125 pieces of large industrial equipment** -- including, barges, tugboats, spuds, spud wells --originating from states such as Idaho, Utah, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Missouri. These inspections were associated with projects like the **BNSF railroad bridge in Bismarck, the Snake Creek pumping plant maintenance, and water supply project near Williston**, none of which are directly related to recreational activities in North Dakota.

To address this issue, we respectfully request that the committee consider implementing a **\$500 fee per industrial inspection and a \$5000 fee for inspections requiring decontamination**. While these fees may seem significant, they are necessary to account for the time and resources involved, including employee labor, travel and specialized decontamination equipment. Given North Dakota's short summer season, the department's commitment of up to 125 days inspecting industrial equipment must be properly compensated – **without placing the financial burden on sportsmen and women**.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your support in securing the future of sport fishing and outdoor recreation for generations to come.

Respectfully,

Richard Brueckner  
President  
North Dakota Sportfishing Congress

"To Preserve, Promote and Improve the Quality of Sport Fishing in North Dakota."



TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY  
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
HOUSE BILL 1470  
SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
March 14, 2025

Chairman Patten and Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

For the record, I am John Bradley, Executive Director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF). NDWF supports HB 1470 and requests a Do Pass recommendation from the committee.

We'd like to thank the bill sponsors for bringing this forward. The ND Game & Fish Department hasn't had a fee increase in over a decade. NDWF feels that an increase is needed in order for the department to fulfill their mission and increase wildlife habitat and access in the state, a goal from their Summit in December of 2024 and a rallying cry from sportsmen across the state. The cost to work with landowners to put quality habitat on the ground, the cost to expand access to our lakes and rivers, and the cost to sign up new PLOTS acres are all going to increase in the future and we want the Department to be financially sound in that process.

Let's be clear, license fee increases alone won't get us to our goal of over a million acres enrolled in PLOTS and the other habitat goals laid out during the Habitat & Access Summit. License fee increases will allow the Department to lead the initiative, partnering with conservation groups, creating programs that work for landowners, and leveraging other pools of state and federal dollars to get us to where we want to go.

Fee increases are never perfect, but we feel that this bill once amended will provide the Department with the needed resources to keep up with the times, while not pricing out hunters and anglers from participating in their outdoor heritage.

We encourage a Do Pass on HB 1470.



## PROPOSED AMENDMENT

### HOUSE BILL NO. 1470

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 20.1-03-12, 20.1-03-36.1, and 20.1-04-12.1 of  
2 the North Dakota Century Code, relating to hunting, fishing, and gun dog activity fees.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 20.1-03-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **20.1-03-12. Schedule of fees for licenses and permits.**

7 The fees collected under this section for licenses and permits must be deposited with the  
8 state treasurer and credited to the game and fish fund, except aquatic nuisance species fees  
9 must be deposited with the state treasurer and credited to the aquatic nuisance species  
10 program fund. Forty-five dollars of each nonresident big game hunting license fee must be used  
11 for the private land initiative. The various license and permit fees are as follows:

- 12 1. For a resident, age sixteen and over, small game hunting license, ~~ten~~twenty dollars.
- 13 2. For a nonresident small game hunting license, ~~one hundred~~one hundred fifty dollars.
- 14 3. For a resident big game hunting license, ~~thirty~~thirty-five dollars, except the fee for a  
15 licensee under age sixteen is ten dollars, except as provided in a gubernatorial  
16 proclamation issued pursuant to section 20.1-08-04.1.
- 17 4. Except for a nonresident who participates on the same basis as a resident in a lottery  
18 for deer licenses remaining after the second lottery for residents under subsection 4 of  
19 section 20.1-03-11, for a nonresident big game hunting license, ~~two hundred fiftythree~~  
20 hundred fifty dollars, and for a nonresident bow license, ~~two hundred fiftythree~~  
21 hundred fifty dollars, and a nonrefundable five dollar application fee must accompany  
22 any lottery license fee under this subsection, except as provided in a gubernatorial

- 1 proclamation issued pursuant to section 20.1-08-04.1. For a nonresident who
- 2 participates on the same basis as a resident in a lottery for deer licenses remaining
- 3 after the second lottery for residents, fifty dollars.
- 4 5. For a resident fur-bearer license, ~~fifteen~~twenty dollars.
- 5 6. For a resident fishing license, ~~sixteen~~twenty-five dollars, except that for a resident
- 6 sixty-five years or over, a resident totally or permanently disabled, or a resident
- 7 disabled veteran who has a fifty percent service-connected disability as determined by
- 8 the department of veterans' affairs or has an extra-schedular rating to include
- 9 individual unemployability that brings the veteran's total disability ratio to fifty percent,
- 10 the license fee is ~~five~~ten dollars.
- 11 7. For a nonresident fishing license, ~~forty-five~~sixty dollars.
- 12 8. For a resident husband and wife fishing license, ~~twenty-two~~forty dollars.
- 13 9. For a nonresident nongame hunting license, ~~fifteen~~twenty-five dollars.
- 14 10. For a resident wild turkey permit, ~~fifteen~~twenty dollars.
- 15 11. For an annual general game license, three dollars.
- 16 12. For a license to a nonresident buyer or shipper of green furs, or that person's agent,
- 17 the amount that the nonresident buyer or shipper of green furs would pay for a
- 18 nonresident buyer or shipper of green furs license or comparable license in that
- 19 person's state of residence, or fifty dollars, whichever is greater.
- 20 13. For a license to a resident buyer or shipper of green furs, eight dollars for each place
- 21 of business maintained by that person within this state.
- 22 14. For a license to a resident traveling agent, buyer, or shipper of green furs, twenty
- 23 dollars.
- 24 15. For an annual license to practice taxidermy, ~~twenty-five~~forty dollars.
- 25 16. For a permit to ship, by a person having a resident hunting license, during the
- 26 respective open seasons, not to exceed in any one season twenty-five game birds, to
- 27 points within this state other than that person's home or to points outside this state,
- 28 three dollars.
- 29 17. For a permit to make collections of protected birds and animals for scientific purposes,
- 30 ten dollars.



- 1 18. For a motorboat certificate of number and license: Each motorboat under sixteen feet  
2 [4.88 meters] in length, and all canoes, regardless of length, powered by a motor,  
3 ~~eighteen~~thirty dollars. Each motorboat sixteen feet [4.88 meters] in length and over but  
4 shorter than twenty feet [6.1 meters] in length, excluding canoes, ~~thirty-six~~forty-five  
5 dollars. Each motorboat twenty feet [6.1 meters] in length or over excluding canoes,  
6 ~~forty-five~~sixty dollars.
- 7 19. For the taking of undesirable fish from the waters of this state pursuant to section  
8 20.1-06-05, ~~fifteen~~thirty dollars for each hoop-net or, trap, and ~~fifteen dollars for each~~or  
9 seine of fifty feet [15.24 meters] or any fraction thereof.
- 10 20. For a resident paddlefish tag annual license, ~~ten~~fifteen dollars per tag.
- 11 21. For a nonresident paddlefish tag annual license, ~~twenty-five dollars and fifty-~~  
12 ~~cents~~thirty-five dollars per tag.
- 13 22. For an annual resident license to sell minnows or other live bait at wholesale,  
14 ~~fifty~~seventy dollars.
- 15 23. For an annual license to sell minnows or other live bait at retail, ~~fifteen~~twenty dollars,  
16 except the fee is ~~seventy-five~~one hundred dollars if white suckers are sold.
- 17 24. For an annual license to operate a private fish hatchery, ~~seventy-five~~one hundred  
18 dollars.
- 19 25. For a resident commercial frog license, ~~fifty~~ dollars.
- 20 26. For a nonresident commercial frog license, ~~two hundred~~ dollars.
- 21 27. For a resident frog license, ~~three~~ dollars.
- 22 28. For a resident husband and wife frog license, ~~five~~ dollars.
- 23 29. For a shooting preserve operating permit, one hundred dollars, plus thirty cents per  
24 acre [.40 hectare] for each acre [.40 hectare].
- 25 30. For a nonresident waterfowl hunting license, ~~one hundred~~ dollars.
- 26 31-26. For a nonresident husband and wife fishing license, ~~sixty~~one hundred dollars.
- 27 32-27. For a nonresident short-term three-day fishing license, ~~twenty-five~~forty dollars.
- 28 33-28. For a nonresident fur-bearer and nongame hunting license, ~~forty~~fifty dollars.
- 29 34-29. For a combination license, ~~fifty~~sixty dollars.
- 30 35-30. For a white-tailed deer license sold to certified guides or outfitters and provided by  
31 them to nonresidents, ~~two hundred fifty~~three hundred fifty dollars.

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly

- 1 ~~36.31.~~ For a resident swan license, ten dollars.
- 2 ~~37.32.~~ For a nonresident swan license, ~~thirty~~fifty dollars.
- 3 ~~38.33.~~ For a resident sandhill crane license, ten dollars.
- 4 ~~39.34.~~ For a nonresident sandhill crane license, thirty dollars.
- 5 ~~40.~~ ~~For a resident commercial clam license, one hundred dollars.~~
- 6 ~~41.~~ ~~For a nonresident commercial clam license, one thousand dollars.~~
- 7 ~~42.~~ ~~For a commercial clam dealer's permit, two thousand dollars. In addition, the applicant~~  
8 ~~shall submit to the director a surety bond in the sum of two thousand dollars.~~
- 9 ~~43.35.~~ For an annual class B nonresident license to sell minnows or other live bait at  
10 wholesale, ~~two hundred fifty~~four hundred dollars.
- 11 ~~44.36.~~ For a bighorn sheep license issued to a nonresident, five hundred dollars.
- 12 ~~45.37.~~ For a nonresident reciprocal trapping license, three hundred fifty dollars.
- 13 ~~46.38.~~ For a nonresident spring white goose license, fifty dollars.
- 14 ~~47.39.~~ For a resident certificate fee, ~~one dollar~~two dollars, and for a nonresident certificate  
15 fee, ~~two~~five dollars. An agent may not charge a service fee for issuing a resident or  
16 nonresident certificate fee.
- 17 ~~48.40.~~ For a nonresident short-term ten-day fishing license, ~~thirty-five~~fifty dollars.
- 18 ~~49.41.~~ For a nonresident wild turkey permit, ~~eighty~~one hundred dollars.
- 19 ~~50.42.~~ For a ~~statewide~~ nonresident waterfowl hunting license, one hundred fifty dollars.
- 20 ~~51.43.~~ For an annual class A nonresident license to sell minnows or other live bait at  
21 wholesale, ~~five hundred~~seven hundred fifty dollars.
- 22 ~~52.44.~~ For a resident early Canada goose season license, ~~five~~ten dollars.
- 23 ~~53.45.~~ For a nonresident early Canada goose season license, fifty dollars.
- 24 ~~54.46.~~ For a resident disabled veteran combined general game, habitat stamp, small game,  
25 and fur-bearer license, ~~thirteen~~ten dollars.
- 26 ~~55.47.~~ For each motorboat licensed in this state, an aquatic nuisance species fee of fifteen  
27 dollars valid concurrent with motorboat licensure.
- 28 ~~56.48.~~ For each motorboat operated on waters of this state and not licensed in this state, an  
29 aquatic nuisance species fee of fifteen dollars for the calendar year in which it is paid.

30 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 20.1-03-36.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
31 amended and reenacted as follows:



**20.1-03-36.1. Fee for guide or outfitter license.**

1. The annual fee to receive a hunting guide license is one hundred dollars for a resident and four hundred dollars for a nonresident.
2. The annual fee to receive a fishing outfitter license is ~~one hundred~~ two hundred fifty dollars for a resident and ~~four hundred~~ five hundred dollars for a nonresident. The annual fee to receive a fishing outfitter license is ~~fifty~~ one hundred twenty-five dollars for a resident and ~~two hundred~~ two hundred fifty dollars for a nonresident if the individual applying for the license has paid for a hunting guide or outfitter license for the same year.
3. The annual fee for a resident to receive a hunting outfitter license is two hundred fifty dollars for under ten thousand acres [4046.86 hectares] and five hundred dollars for ten thousand acres [4046.86 hectares] and over on which the outfitter provides services. The annual fee for a nonresident to receive a hunting outfitter license is two thousand dollars. The acreage must be presented by the county with a list of lessors by county in every application for outfitter licensure. The annual permit fee for day leasing is two hundred dollars. The acreage day leased by county for the preceding year must be provided to receive a day leasing permit.
4. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a license is not required for a person to provide services on real property that person owns or leases for the primary pursuit of bona fide agricultural interests, for a nonprofit organization registered with the secretary of state, or for a person that acts as a booking agent for a person that legally conducts business as an outfitter. However, a person who has been convicted of a state or federal criminal game or fish violation within the last three years or whose license to hunt or fish is under suspension or revocation is not exempt from licensure and is subject to subsection 5 of section 20.1-03-37. A booking agent that refers an individual to an outfitter under this subsection may receive a fee or commission for the referral. The director shall determine the number of acres by county exempted from licensure by this subsection and shall publish the results. The director shall provide written information to the public on the possible liability exposure for outfitting under this subsection and on the benefits of liability insurance and proper training. For

1 purposes of this subsection, a booking agent means a person that receives only a fee  
2 for referring or marketing the services of a legal outfitter in this state.

3 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 20.1-04-12.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5 **20.1-04-12.1. Gun dog activities - Permit required - Fee.**

- 6 1. The director shall issue a permit for the following gun dog activities:
- 7 a. The training exercises of a resident or nonresident professional trainer;
- 8 b. The training exercises of a nonresident amateur trainer who brings more than  
9 four gun dogs into the state; and
- 10 c. Hosting field trials that use live wild birds.
- 11 2. The application for the permit must be in a form prescribed by the director and must be  
12 accompanied by the appropriate fee.
- 13 3. Upon the receipt of the completed application and fee the director shall issue a permit  
14 for a specified period of time and shall require the permitholder to submit an annual  
15 report.
- 16 4. The fees for the permits are:
- 17 a. For a resident professional gun dog trainer for training exercises or hosting field  
18 trials, ~~ten~~twenty dollars.
- 19 b. For a nonresident professional or amateur gun dog trainer who brings more than  
20 four gun dogs into the state for training exercises or hosting field trials, one  
21 hundred dollars.
- 22 c. ~~For a permit to a nonresident amateur who brings more than four gun dogs into~~  
23 ~~this state, twenty-five dollars.~~
- 24 5. For purposes of this section, a professional trainer is a person who trains any breed of  
25 gun dog for remuneration that is the basis for that person's livelihood.





## Game and Fish Fund



[illegible]

[illegible]



**RESIDENT**

| Category                       | LICENSE TYPE  | ND FEE   | SD FEE    | MN FEE    | MT FEE    | PROPOSED    |
|--------------------------------|---|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Fishing & Hunting Prerequisite | Fishing, Hunting, & Furbearer Certificate; Conservation; Habitat Stamp; Agent | \$ 1.00  | \$ 10.00  | \$ 1.00   | \$ 10.00  | \$ 2.00     |
| Fishing                        | Annual  | \$ 16.00 | \$ 31.00  | \$ 25.00  | \$ 21.00  | \$ 25.00    |
|                                | 65 or older   | \$ 5.00  | \$ 17.00  |           | \$ 10.50  | \$ 10.00    |
|                                | Married Couple  | \$ 22.00 |           | \$ 40.00  |           | \$ 40.00    |
|                                | Totally or permanently disabled   | \$ 5.00  |           |           |           | \$ 10.00    |
|                                | Veteran with a 50% service-related disability                                 | \$ 5.00  |           |           |           | \$ 10.00    |
|                                | Paddlefish Tag  | \$ 10.00 | \$ 30.00  |           | \$ 11.50  | \$ 15.00    |
| Combination                    | Combination   | \$ 50.00 | \$ 60.00  | \$ 57.00  | \$ 62.00  | \$ 60.00    |
|                                | Veteran (100% service-related disability) Combined Hunting                    | \$ 3.00  | \$ 10.00  |           |           | \$ 10.00    |
| Hunting Prerequisite           | General Game and Habitat  | \$ 20.00 |           |           | \$ 10.00  | \$ 20.00    |
| Small Game                     | Small Game (16 & older)   | \$ 10.00 | \$ 36.00  | \$ 22.00  | \$ 7.50   | \$ 20.00    |
| Furbearer                      | Furbearer (16 & older)  | \$ 15.00 | \$ 31.00  |           |           | \$ 20.00    |
| Waterfowl                      | Early Canada Goose  | \$ 5.00  | \$ 15.00  |           |           | \$ 10.00    |
|                                | Spring Light Goose  |          |           | \$ 2.50   |           |             |
|                                | Crane   | \$ 10.00 |           | \$ 3.00   |           | \$ 10.00    |
| Turkey                         | Spring Turkey   | \$ 15.00 | \$ 28.00  | \$ 26.00  | \$ 6.50   | \$ 20.00    |
|                                | Fall Turkey   | \$ 15.00 | \$ 20.00  | \$ 26.00  | \$ 6.50   | \$ 20.00    |
| Swan                           | Tundra Swan   | \$ 10.00 | \$ 21.00  |           |           | \$ 10.00    |
| Deer                           | Application Fee   | \$ -     |           |           | \$ 5.00   | \$ -        |
|                                | Deer Gun  | \$ 30.00 | \$ 45.00  | \$ 34.00  | \$ 16.00  | \$ 35.00    |
|                                | Youth Deer Gun (15 and younger)   | \$ 10.00 |           | \$ 5.00   | \$ 8.00   | \$ 10.00    |
|                                | Deer Bow  | \$ 30.00 | \$ 45.00  | \$ 34.00  |           | \$ 35.00    |
|                                | Youth Deer Bow (15 and younger)   | \$ 10.00 |           |           |           | \$ 10.00    |
| Pronghorn                      | Application Fee   |          |           |           | \$ 5.00   | \$ -        |
|                                | Pronghorn   | \$ 30.00 | \$ 45.00  |           | \$ 14.00  | \$ 35.00    |
|                                | Youth Pronghorn (15 & younger)  | \$ 10.00 |           |           |           | \$ 10.00    |
| Elk                            | Application Fee   | \$ 5.00  | \$ 10.00  | \$ 5.00   | \$ 5.00   | \$ 5.00     |
|                                | Elk   | \$ 30.00 | \$ 195.00 | \$ 288.00 | \$ 20.00  | \$ 35.00    |
|                                | Youth Elk (15 & younger)  | \$ 10.00 |           |           |           | \$ 10.00    |
| Moose                          | Application Fee   | \$ 5.00  |           | \$ 4.00   | \$ 10.00  | \$ 5.00     |
|                                | Moose   | \$ 30.00 |           | \$ 356.00 | \$ 125.00 | \$ 35.00    |
|                                | Youth Moose (15 & younger)  | \$ 10.00 |           |           |           | \$ 10.00    |
| Bighorn Sheep                  | Application Fee   | \$ 5.00  |           |           | \$ 10.00  | \$ 5.00     |
|                                | Sheep   | \$ 30.00 | \$ 294.00 |           | \$ 125.00 | \$ 35.00    |
|                                | Youth Sheep (15 & younger)  | \$ 10.00 |           |           |           | \$ 10.00    |
| Special                        | Bonus Points  | \$ 30.00 | \$ 20.00  |           | \$ 15.00  | \$ 35.00    |
| CATEGORY                       | LICENSE TYPE  | ND FEE   | SD FEE    | MN FEE    | MT FEE    | ND PROPOSED |
| Watercraft                     | < 16' (3-year registration)   | \$ 18.00 | \$ 54.00  | \$ 36.00  | \$ 65.50  | \$ 30.00    |
| Watercraft                     | 16' - <20' (3-year registration)  | \$ 36.00 | \$ 90.00  | \$ 59.00  | \$ 125.50 | \$ 45.00    |
| Watercraft                     | >= 20' (3-year registration)  | \$ 45.00 | \$ 165.00 | \$ 164.00 | \$ 295.50 | \$ 60.00    |

**NONRESIDENT**

| CATEGORY                       | LICENSE TYPE  | ND FEE    | SD FEE    | MN FEE    | MT FEE    | ND PROPOSED |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Fishing & Hunting prerequisite | Fishing, Hunting, & Furbearer Certificate; Conservation; Habitat Stamp; Agent | \$ 2.00   | \$ 25.00  | \$ 1.00   | \$ 10.00  | \$ 5.00     |
| Fishing                        | Annual  | \$ 45.00  | \$ 80.00  | \$ 51.00  | \$ 100.00 | \$ 60.00    |
|                                | Married Couple  | \$ 60.00  |           | \$ 68.00  |           | \$ 100.00   |
|                                | 10-Day  | \$ 35.00  |           | \$ 54.00  |           | \$ 50.00    |
|                                | Three-Day   | \$ 25.00  | \$ 45.00  | \$ 36.00  |           | \$ 40.00    |
|                                | Five-Day  |           |           | \$ 43.00  | \$ 56.00  |             |
|                                | Paddlefish Tag  | \$ 25.50  | \$ 50.00  |           | \$ 20.00  | \$ 35.00    |
| Hunting Prerequisite           | General Game and Habitat  | \$ 20.00  |           |           | \$ 15.00  | \$ 20.00    |
| Small Game                     | Small Game (16 & older)   | \$ 100.00 | \$ 142.00 | \$ 102.00 | \$ 110.00 | \$ 150.00   |
| Furbearer                      | Furbearer & Nongame   | \$ 40.00  | \$ 325.00 | \$ 183.00 |           | \$ 50.00    |
|                                | Nongame   | \$ 15.00  |           |           |           | \$ 25.00    |
|                                | Reciprocal Trapping   | \$ 350.00 | \$ 350.00 | \$ 84.00  | \$ 250.00 | \$ 350.00   |
| Waterfowl                      | Early Canada Goose (16 & older)   | \$ 50.00  | \$ 51.00  |           | \$ 6.00   | \$ 50.00    |
|                                | Youth Early Canada Goose (15 & younger)                                       | \$ 5.00   |           |           |           |             |
|                                | Spring Light Goose (16 & older)   | \$ 50.00  | \$ 61.00  | \$ 2.50   | \$ 16.00  | \$ 50.00    |
|                                | Crane   | \$ 30.00  |           | \$ 3.00   | \$ 5.00   | \$ 30.00    |
|                                | Youth Crane (15 & younger)  | \$ 10.00  |           |           |           |             |
|                                | Statewide waterfowl (16 & older)  | \$ 150.00 | \$ 139.00 |           | \$ 150.00 | \$ -        |
|                                | Zone-restricted waterfowl (16 & older)  | \$ 100.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 102.00 |           | \$ 150.00   |
| Turkey                         | Turkey  | \$ 80.00  | \$ 106.00 | \$ 96.00  | \$ 115.00 | \$ 100.00   |
|                                | Youth Turkey (15 & younger)   | \$ 15.00  |           | \$ 5.00   |           |             |
| Swan                           | Tundra Swan   | \$ 30.00  | \$ 40.00  |           | \$ 30.00  | \$ 50.00    |
|                                | Youth Tundra Swan (15 & younger)  | \$ 10.00  |           |           |           |             |
| Deer                           | 1st Lottery Deer Gun application fee  | \$ 5.00   | \$ 5.00   |           | \$ 5.00   | \$ 5.00     |
|                                | Deer Gun  | \$ 250.00 | \$ 375.00 | \$ 185.00 | \$ 744.00 | \$ 350.00   |
|                                | Youth Deer Gun (15 and younger)   | \$ 10.00  |           | \$ 5.00   | \$ 37.50  |             |
|                                | After the second lottery, deer gun  | \$ 50.00  |           |           |           | \$ 50.00    |
|                                | Deer Bow  | \$ 250.00 | \$ 375.00 | \$ 185.00 | \$ 744.00 | \$ 350.00   |
| Special                        | Bonus Points  | \$ -      | \$ 20.00  |           | \$ 25.00  | \$ 35.00    |



Good Morning Chair Patten & Committee Members

For the record I am Jeremy Doan. I have owned and operated an outfitting business in ND for the past 25 years. I am here to speak in favor of the .04001 Amendments to House Bill 1470.

Being a guide can be one of the most stressful jobs, but also very rewarding. It requires working every day continually for 2 months or more, it also tests you physically and emotionally with mother nature and clients, while getting very little sleep. People that become guides must have a passion for the outdoors, wildlife, and the ability to be around different personalities of guests. These guides must have a strong background in hunting, know the state and federal regulations, and can be transparent to changes that come daily.

Finding quality guides in ND has become very tough over the past decade. We market extensively to search for quality candidates. Many of these candidates either have full-time positions with a company they work for or have other obligations that do not allow them to be gone for at least 2 months at a time.

In the past we have had guides from ND, as well as many other states.

We have learned that the ones traveling to be here, are the ones committed to be here. We have had to turn away some of the most experienced and committed people applying that would represent ND in the best way, because of the 3 year hunting requirement in ND.

With no options for guides due to this law, we have to beg someone that has had a ND hunting license for 3 years to work. I am unaware of any other state that has this same requirement for guides.

Aren't pheasants and waterfowl in SD very similar to the ones we have here? So isn't it still the same experience hunting them across state lines?

Most of these guides that get turned away due to this regulation, will go to Canada, or any other state with minimal effort to be a licensed guide. Please vote yes on passing this amendment.

Moving onto Section 4 language on the testing restriction language.

Last year we lost one guide due to his leg getting amputated the week before season started with no warning.

We had to run short for the entire season due to not being allowed to take the test, even though I had 2 very qualified people ready to step in and become guides.

This was not good for our business, staff morale, or a good reflection of North Dakota.

If someone wanted to work for the game and fish department and were required to take a test, would they only allow them to take a test twice a year or turn them away if they needed them right now?

Is it fair in this business if someone is incapable of working right before the doors open, and we aren't allowed to fill this position due to a simple regulation on not offering them to take this guide test?

This regulation is old and needs to be changed. Please approve these changes. Thank you, any questions?



Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Information requested on HB 1470

North Dakota Game and Fish Department  
Jeb Williams, Director  
March 14, 2025

Chairman Patten and members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide the committee with information on HB 1470. First, I would like to remind all of you that the Department is a special fund agency and we don't receive any general fund dollars. Instead, approximately 46% of our revenue comes from federal excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment, while the remaining primary source of our revenue is generated by license sales for hunting, fishing and boating. By state law, the Department is required to maintain a \$15 million ending fund balance. This was established first in the late 90's with a \$10 million dollar reserve and then adjusted in 2005 to the current, \$15 million dollar figure. Attached in the information packet we passed out is a graph showing the fund balance (and projected fund balance) along with an informational sheet comparing our neighboring states hunting and fishing fees.

In recent bienniums, the Department had sufficient funding in reserve to carry us through following the last, major fee increase which happened in the 2013 legislative session. Many factors have contributed to the increased cost of day-to-day operations in the department. The most obvious is simply inflationary costs. But a desired goal by the Department and the public to grow our outdoor opportunities continues to be the focus. Over the last two bienniums the Department has made significant habitat and access commitments in our private lands program cutting into our reserve fund. The loss of over two million acres of CRP in North Dakota over the last 15 years has had an impact on overall wildlife populations across the state. Sportsmen and women are very engaged on this topic and on many occasions have challenged the department to come up with programs and new ideas that will try to negate or soften the loss of habitat.

We are currently managing a record number of fishing waters across the state. Monitoring for aquatic nuisance species (ANS) continues to be a very important topic and people are relying on the Department to lead this effort. The demand for development infrastructure in the form of boat ramps, docks, piers, etc. is growing and the cost of providing these is increasing. While we partner with the Department of Water Resources on dam repair projects, these have become extremely expensive and given that one-third of our current fishing waters are those behind dams its important these are addressed.

With the changing landscape in North Dakota's population demographics and increased population, many challenges have been presented to North Dakota's peace officers and our wardens are no exception. They are an integral part of our everyday operation, and their budget consists of mostly license funds.

Our relationship and dialogue with our clientele is extensive and I feel quite confident saying the sporting public is asking for more not less. We also realize there is a fine line to walk on the cost of our licenses. There are avid sportsmen and women in the state who are asking that the fees be increased substantially to support habitat, enforcement, fisheries and access. There are also casual sportsmen and women, many who are older and retired, that are on fixed incomes, that don't want to be priced out of the outdoors experience. During last December's habitat and access summit where over 350 people attended, one of the major topics of discussion is how we can work together to maintain and increase our great opportunities in the state and increasing licensing fees was a common theme. Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on a very important topic.



25.0842.04001  
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council  
staff for Senator Gerhardt  
March 12, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

**ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1470**

Introduced by

Representatives Bosch, Porter

Senator Patten

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 20.1-03-12; and 20.1-03-36.1, subsection 7 of  
2 section 20.1-03-37, subsection 4 of section 20.1-03-38, and section 20.1-04-12.1 of the North  
3 Dakota Century Code, relating to hunting, fishing, and gun dog activity fees and hunting guide  
4 and outfitter licensing requirements.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 20.1-03-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **20.1-03-12. Schedule of fees for licenses and permits.**

9 The fees collected under this section for licenses and permits must be deposited with the  
10 state treasurer and credited to the game and fish fund, except aquatic nuisance species fees  
11 must be deposited with the state treasurer and credited to the aquatic nuisance species  
12 program fund. Forty-five dollars of each nonresident big game hunting license fee must be used  
13 for the private land initiative. The various license and permit fees are as follows:

- 14 1. For a resident, age sixteen and over, small game hunting license, ~~ten~~twenty dollars.
- 15 2. For a nonresident small game hunting license, ~~one hundred~~one hundred fifty dollars.
- 16 3. For a resident big game hunting license, ~~thirty~~thirty-five dollars, except the fee for a  
17 licensee under age sixteen is ten dollars, except as provided in a gubernatorial  
18 proclamation issued pursuant to section 20.1-08-04.1.
- 19 4. Except for a nonresident who participates on the same basis as a resident in a lottery  
20 for deer licenses remaining after the second lottery for residents under subsection 4 of



- 1 section 20.1-03-11, for a nonresident big game hunting license, ~~two hundred fiftythree~~  
2 hundred fifty dollars, and for a nonresident bow license, ~~two hundred fiftythree~~  
3 hundred fifty dollars, and a nonrefundable five dollar application fee must accompany  
4 any lottery license fee under this subsection, except as provided in a gubernatorial  
5 proclamation issued pursuant to section 20.1-08-04.1. For a nonresident who  
6 participates on the same basis as a resident in a lottery for deer licenses remaining  
7 after the second lottery for residents, fifty dollars.
- 8 5. For a resident fur-bearer license, ~~fifteen~~twenty dollars.
- 9 6. For a resident fishing license, ~~sixteen~~twenty-five dollars, except that for a resident  
10 sixty-five years or over, a resident totally or permanently disabled, or a resident  
11 disabled veteran who has a fifty percent service-connected disability as determined by  
12 the department of veterans' affairs or has an extra-schedular rating to include  
13 individual unemployability that brings the veteran's total disability ratio to fifty percent,  
14 the license fee is ~~five~~ten dollars.
- 15 7. For a nonresident fishing license, ~~forty-five~~sixty dollars.
- 16 8. For a resident husband and wife fishing license, ~~twenty-two~~forty dollars.
- 17 9. For a nonresident nongame hunting license, ~~fifteen~~twenty-five dollars.
- 18 10. For a resident wild turkey permit, ~~fifteen~~twenty dollars.
- 19 11. For an annual general game license, three dollars.
- 20 12. For a license to a nonresident buyer or shipper of green furs, or that person's agent,  
21 the amount that the nonresident buyer or shipper of green furs would pay for a  
22 nonresident buyer or shipper of green furs license or comparable license in that  
23 person's state of residence, or fifty dollars, whichever is greater.
- 24 13. For a license to a resident buyer or shipper of green furs, eight dollars for each place  
25 of business maintained by that person within this state.
- 26 14. For a license to a resident traveling agent, buyer, or shipper of green furs, twenty  
27 dollars.
- 28 15. For an annual license to practice taxidermy, ~~twenty-five~~forty dollars.
- 29 16. For a permit to ship, by a person having a resident hunting license, during the  
30 respective open seasons, not to exceed in any one season twenty-five game birds, to

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- 1 points within this state other than that person's home or to points outside this state,  
2 three dollars.
- 3 17. For a permit to make collections of protected birds and animals for scientific purposes,  
4 ten dollars.
- 5 18. For a motorboat certificate of number and license: Each motorboat under sixteen feet  
6 [4.88 meters] in length, and all canoes, regardless of length, powered by a motor,  
7 ~~eighteen~~thirty dollars. Each motorboat sixteen feet [4.88 meters] in length and over but  
8 shorter than twenty feet [6.1 meters] in length, excluding canoes, ~~thirty-six~~forty-five  
9 dollars. Each motorboat twenty feet [6.1 meters] in length or over excluding canoes,  
10 ~~forty-five~~sixty dollars.
- 11 19. For the taking of undesirable fish from the waters of this state pursuant to section  
12 20.1-06-05, ~~fifteen~~thirty dollars for each hoop-net or trap, and ~~fifteen dollars for each~~or  
13 seine of fifty feet [15.24 meters] or any fraction thereof.
- 14 20. For a resident paddlefish tag annual license, ~~ten~~fifteen dollars per tag.
- 15 21. For a nonresident paddlefish tag annual license, ~~twenty-five dollars and fifty-~~  
16 ~~cents~~thirty-five dollars per tag.
- 17 22. For an annual resident license to sell minnows or other live bait at wholesale,  
18 ~~fifty~~seventy dollars.
- 19 23. For an annual license to sell minnows or other live bait at retail, ~~fifteen~~twenty dollars,  
20 except the fee is ~~seventy-five~~one hundred dollars if white suckers are sold.
- 21 24. For an annual license to operate a private fish hatchery, ~~seventy-five~~one hundred  
22 dollars.
- 23 25. ~~For a resident commercial frog license, fifty dollars.~~
- 24 26. ~~For a nonresident commercial frog license, two hundred dollars.~~
- 25 27. ~~For a resident frog license, three dollars.~~
- 26 28. ~~For a resident husband and wife frog license, five dollars.~~
- 27 29. For a shooting preserve operating permit, one hundred dollars, plus thirty cents per  
28 acre [.40 hectare] for each acre [.40 hectare].
- 29 30. ~~For a nonresident waterfowl hunting license, one hundred dollars.~~
- 30 31-26. For a nonresident husband and wife fishing license, ~~sixty~~one hundred dollars.
- 31 32-27. For a nonresident short-term three-day fishing license, ~~twenty-five~~forty dollars.

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- 1 ~~33.28.~~ For a nonresident fur-bearer and nongame hunting license, ~~forty~~fifty dollars.
- 2 ~~34.29.~~ For a combination license, ~~fifty~~sixty dollars.
- 3 ~~35.30.~~ For a white-tailed deer license sold to certified guides or outfitters and provided by
- 4 them to nonresidents, two hundred fifty dollars.
- 5 ~~36.31.~~ For a resident swan license, ten dollars.
- 6 ~~37.32.~~ For a nonresident swan license, ~~thirty~~fifty dollars.
- 7 ~~38.33.~~ For a resident sandhill crane license, ten dollars.
- 8 ~~39.34.~~ For a nonresident sandhill crane license, thirty dollars.
- 9 ~~40.~~ For a resident commercial clam license, one hundred dollars.
- 10 ~~41.~~ For a nonresident commercial clam license, one thousand dollars.
- 11 ~~42.~~ For a commercial clam dealer's permit, two thousand dollars. In addition, the applicant
- 12 shall submit to the director a surety bond in the sum of two thousand dollars.
- 13 ~~43.35.~~ For an annual class B nonresident license to sell minnows or other live bait at
- 14 wholesale, ~~two hundred fifty~~four hundred dollars.
- 15 ~~44.36.~~ For a bighorn sheep license issued to a nonresident, five hundred dollars.
- 16 ~~45.37.~~ For a nonresident reciprocal trapping license, three hundred fifty dollars.
- 17 ~~46.38.~~ For a nonresident spring white goose license, fifty dollars.
- 18 ~~47.39.~~ For a resident certificate fee, ~~one dollar~~two dollars, and for a nonresident certificate
- 19 fee, ~~two~~five dollars. An agent may not charge a service fee for issuing a resident or
- 20 nonresident certificate fee.
- 21 ~~48.40.~~ For a nonresident short-term ten-day fishing license, ~~thirty-five~~fifty dollars.
- 22 ~~49.41.~~ For a nonresident wild turkey permit, ~~eighty~~one hundred dollars.
- 23 ~~50.42.~~ For a ~~statewide~~ nonresident waterfowl hunting license, one hundred fifty dollars.
- 24 ~~51.43.~~ For an annual class A nonresident license to sell minnows or other live bait at
- 25 wholesale, ~~five hundred~~seven hundred fifty dollars.
- 26 ~~52.44.~~ For a resident early Canada goose season license, ~~five~~ten dollars.
- 27 ~~53.45.~~ For a nonresident early Canada goose season license, fifty dollars.
- 28 ~~54.46.~~ For a resident disabled veteran combined general game, habitat stamp, small game,
- 29 and fur-bearer license, ~~thirteen~~ten dollars.
- 30 ~~55.47.~~ For each motorboat licensed in this state, an aquatic nuisance species fee of fifteen
- 31 dollars valid concurrent with motorboat licensure.



1 ~~56.48.~~ For each motorboat operated on waters of this state and not licensed in this state, an  
2 aquatic nuisance species fee of fifteen dollars for the calendar year in which it is paid.

3 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 20.1-03-36.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5 **20.1-03-36.1. Fee for guide or outfitter license.**

- 6 1. The annual fee to receive a hunting guide license is one hundred dollars for a resident  
7 and four hundred dollars for a nonresident.
- 8 2. The annual fee to receive a fishing outfitter license is ~~one hundred~~two hundred fifty  
9 dollars for a resident and ~~four hundred~~five hundred dollars for a nonresident. The  
10 annual fee to receive a fishing outfitter license is ~~fiftyone hundred twenty-five~~ dollars  
11 for a resident and ~~two hundred~~two hundred fifty dollars for a nonresident if the  
12 individual applying for the license has paid for a hunting guide or outfitter license for  
13 the same year.
- 14 3. The annual fee for a resident to receive a hunting outfitter license is two hundred fifty  
15 dollars for under ten thousand acres [4046.86 hectares] and five hundred dollars for  
16 ten thousand acres [4046.86 hectares] and over on which the outfitter provides  
17 services. The annual fee for a nonresident to receive a hunting outfitter license is two  
18 thousand dollars. The acreage must be presented by the county with a list of lessors  
19 by county in every application for outfitter licensure. The annual permit fee for day  
20 leasing is two hundred dollars. The acreage day leased by county for the preceding  
21 year must be provided to receive a day leasing permit.
- 22 4. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a license is not required for a person  
23 to provide services on real property that person owns or leases for the primary pursuit  
24 of bona fide agricultural interests, for a nonprofit organization registered with the  
25 secretary of state, or for a person that acts as a booking agent for a person that legally  
26 conducts business as an outfitter. However, a person who has been convicted of a  
27 state or federal criminal game or fish violation within the last three years or whose  
28 license to hunt or fish is under suspension or revocation is not exempt from licensure  
29 and is subject to subsection 5 of section 20.1-03-37. A booking agent that refers an  
30 individual to an outfitter under this subsection may receive a fee or commission for the  
31 referral. The director shall determine the number of acres by county exempted from

1 licensure by this subsection and shall publish the results. The director shall provide  
2 written information to the public on the possible liability exposure for outfitting under  
3 this subsection and on the benefits of liability insurance and proper training. For  
4 purposes of this subsection, a booking agent means a person that receives only a fee  
5 for referring or marketing the services of a legal outfitter in this state.

6 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 7 of section 20.1-03-37 of the North Dakota  
7 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 8 7. An applicant for a ~~hunting guide or~~ hunting outfitter license must have legally hunted in  
9 this state for part of each of any three years in a manner directly contributing to the  
10 individual's experience and competency as a guide. ~~The department may waive this~~  
11 ~~requirement if the applicant proves that the applicant has legally hunted for parts of at~~  
12 ~~least three years in other states and an outfitter employing that individual would suffer~~  
13 ~~an undue hardship without that individual.~~

14 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of section 20.1-03-38 of the North Dakota  
15 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 16 4. The director may not issue a license to an individual to be a hunting guide or hunting  
17 outfitter unless the individual is proficient in the application of state and federal laws on  
18 the hunting of wild game. The director shall create and administer a written  
19 examination to test proficiency of hunting guides and outfitters in these laws. The  
20 director shall administer examinations at least twice a year; however, an examination  
21 may not be given within ninety days after ~~the previous examination~~ a previously failed  
22 examination by the applicant.

23 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 20.1-04-12.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
24 amended and reenacted as follows:

25 **20.1-04-12.1. Gun dog activities - Permit required - Fee.**

- 26 1. The director shall issue a permit for the following gun dog activities:  
27 a. The training exercises of a resident or nonresident professional trainer;  
28 b. The training exercises of a nonresident amateur trainer who brings more than  
29 four gun dogs into the state; and  
30 c. Hosting field trials that use live wild birds.



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- 1        2.    The application for the permit must be in a form prescribed by the director and must be
- 2           accompanied by the appropriate fee.
- 3        3.    Upon the receipt of the completed application and fee the director shall issue a permit
- 4           for a specified period of time and shall require the permitholder to submit an annual
- 5           report.
- 6        4.    The fees for the permits are:
- 7           a.    For a resident professional gun dog trainer for training exercises or hosting field
- 8           trials, ~~ten~~twenty dollars.
- 9           b.    For a nonresident professional or amateur gun dog trainer who brings more than
- 10          four gun dogs into the state for training exercises or hosting field trials, one
- 11          hundred dollars.
- 12          c.    ~~For a permit to a nonresident amateur who brings more than four gun dogs into~~
- 13          ~~this state, twenty-five dollars.~~
- 14        5.    For purposes of this section, a professional trainer is a person who trains any breed of
- 15           gun dog for remuneration that is the basis for that person's livelihood.

Good Morning Chair Patten & Committee Members

For the record I am Shanda Morgan

I am here to explain and speak in favor of the .04001 Amendments to House Bill 1470

The amendment in Section 3 removes "hunting guide" from the requirements to have hunted in this state for part of each of any 3 years. "hunting outfitter" would be left in. The issue with having the guide listed is that it is becoming increasingly more difficult to get talented guides from in-state who want to work. This means outfitters must look elsewhere to find them. Outfitters are looking for great people to help with their operation. Guides who are personable as well as hunting expertise.

The amendment would then remove the last sentence allowing the department to waive the 3 year hunting requirement as it doesn't apply anymore.

Moving onto Section 4. This is cleanup language concerning the administration of examinations.

Let me set up the situation that brought attention to this grey area. Senator Patten - you took the hunting guide exam 2 weeks ago & passed. You then had a family emergency that made it impossible for you to continue employment with the outfitter you had planned. This left the Outfitter in a lurch. Luckily for them, they found Senator Beard who himself is another experienced guide. One caveat, Senator Beard needs to pass the exam.

The Game & Fish will not administer the exam to Senator Beard because they gave Senator Patten the exam within the last 90 days.

So, to make this more clear and allow the Game & Fish to administer exams as needed, the wording "the previous examination" was removed and instead added "a previous failed examination by the applicant" This way, if someone does fail, they have to wait to re-take the exam, but it does not prohibit the Game & Fish from administering exams to others who have not failed or even taken the exam at all.

Thank you for your time and I would stand for any questions you may have.

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

HB 1470

3/20/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 20.1-03-12, 20.1-03-36.1, and 20.1-04-12.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to hunting, fishing, and gun dog activity fees.

9:50 a.m. Chairman Patten opened the hearing.

Members present:

Chairman Patten, Vice Chairman Kessel, Senators: Beard, Boehm, Enget, Gerhardt, and Van Oosting.

### Discussion Topics:

- Examination administration frequency
- Electronic testing implementation
- Testing hardship exemptions
- Departmental resource allocation
- Guide and outfitter licensing requirements

9:50 a.m. Senator Kessel introduced Scott Winkelman's proposed amendment and submitted testimony #43253.

9:51 a.m. Scott Winkelman, Enforcement Division Chief, Game and Fish Department, explained amendment answered committee questions.

10:00 a.m. The committee discussed test administration frequency, exemptions, and challenges with electronic testing.

10:10 a.m. Committee discussed shifts to test scheduling, retesting requirements, and waiting period justifications.

10:20 a.m. Committee questioned online test fees, scheduling flexibility, and potential issues with digital testing.

10:30 a.m. Senator Boehm discussed an online option and committee discussed electronic test system development costs, fee charging, and compatibility with licensing procedures.

10:41 a.m. Committee agrees to postpone action on the bill for further review.

10:44 a.m. Chairman Patten closed the hearing.

*Kendra McCann, Committee Clerk*

Section 3. AMENDMENT. Subsection 7 of section 20.1-03-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

7. An applicant for a ~~hunting guide~~ or hunting outfitter license must have legally hunted in this state for part of each of any three years in a manner directly contributing to the individual's experience and competency as a guide. ~~The Department may waive this requirement if the applicant proves that the applicant has legally hunted for parts of at least three years in other states and an outfitter employing that individual would suffer an undue hardship without that individual.~~

Department comments:

This subsection was put in place to help ensure that hunting guides had some familiarity with North Dakota's rules/regulations and the hunting culture within North Dakota while giving the Department the flexibility to issue exemptions which has served the purpose over the years. Furthermore, much of the input provided was at the request of the guides and outfitters association who wanted to ensure that outfitters were employing guides who were familiarized with North Dakota ensuring a good appearance and experience for all parties involved. The Department would recommend the above suggested amendment be removed and the existing language stay in place.

Section 4. AMENDMENT. Section 4 of section 20.1-03-38 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

4. The director may not issue a license to an individual to be a hunting guide or hunting outfitter unless the individual is proficient in the application of state and federal laws on the hunting of wild game. The director shall create and administer a written examination to test proficiency of hunting guides and outfitters in these laws. The director shall administer examinations at least twice a year; however, an examination may not be given within ninety days after ~~the previous examination a~~ ~~previously failed examination by the applicant.~~

Department comments:

The existing system of two scheduled test dates per year has appropriately met the demand for guide and outfitter testing over the last 20 years. Advertising, scheduling, and hosting of these tests on two specific dates (or more if the Dept feels the demand to do so) is an efficient way to annually test approximately 50 applicants. The proposed amendment would allow for these individuals to randomly show up at one of our Department offices and want to take the test. While our Bismarck office could better handle that scenario our district field offices are not equipped as the majority of staff in those offices are field personnel and not in the office the majority of time. In addition, the test should be administered by someone in the enforcement division so having a scheduling component to this process is important. There are some simple coordination and organizational functions to this process, even at our Bismarck office, which are important for both the Department and individual seeking to take the exam which would be lost if the above amendment were approved. If the committee chooses to act on this proposed amendment my suggestion would be to include some language similar to section 3 which grants the Department the ability to waive the



90-day requirement from the previous test if an outfitter would suffer an undue hardship. If the committee has desire to act on this amendment I would propose the following:

4. The director may not issue a license to an individual to be a hunting guide or hunting outfitter unless the individual is proficient in the application of state and federal laws on the hunting of wild game. The director shall create and administer a written examination to test proficiency of hunting guides and outfitters in these laws. The director shall administer examinations at least twice a year; however, an examination may not be given within ninety days after **the previous examination unless an outfitter employing a prospective guide would suffer an undue hardship without that individual.**

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

HB 1470

3/27/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 20.1-03-12, 20.1-03-36.1, and 20.1-04-12.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to hunting, fishing, and gun dog activity fees.

9:27 a.m. Chairman Patten opened the hearing.

Members present:

Chairman Patten, Vice Chairman Kessel, Senators: Beard, Boehm, Enget, Gerhardt, and Van Oosting.

### Discussion Topics:

- License fee adjustments
- Guiding outfitter language

9:27 a.m. Senator Gerhardt introduced proposed amendment LC# 25.0842.04002 and submitted testimony #44296.

9:28 a.m. Jeb Williams, Director, Game and Fish Department, proposed a verbal amendment, change page 4 line 4 them to non-residence from \$250 to \$350, and answered committee questions.

9:32 a.m. Senator Gerhardt moved Amendment LC# 25.0842.04002 and verbal amendment, page 4 line 4 to non-residence from \$250 to \$350.

9:33 a.m. Senator Beard seconded.

| Senators                    | Vote |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Senator Dale Patten         | Y    |
| Senator Greg Kessel         | Y    |
| Senator Todd Beard          | Y    |
| Senator Keith Boehm         | Y    |
| Senator Mark Enget          | Y    |
| Senator Justin Gerhardt     | Y    |
| Senator Desiree Van Oosting | Y    |

Motion Passed 7-0-0.

9:34 a.m. Senator Gerhardt moved a Do Pass as Amended.

9:34 a.m. Senator Boehm seconded the motion.

| <b>Senators</b>             | <b>Vote</b> |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Senator Dale Patten         | Y           |
| Senator Greg Kessel         | Y           |
| Senator Todd Beard          | Y           |
| Senator Keith Boehm         | Y           |
| Senator Mark Enget          | Y           |
| Senator Justin Gerhardt     | Y           |
| Senator Desiree Van Oosting | Y           |

Motion Passed 7-0-0.

9:35 a.m. Senator Gerhardt will carry the bill.

9:36 a.m. Chairman Patten closed the hearing.

*Kendra McCann, Committee Clerk*

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

VG 1057  
3/27/25

**ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1470**

Introduced by

Representatives Bosch, Porter

Senator Patten

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 20.1-03-12, and 20.1-03-36.1, subsection 7 of  
section 20.1-03-37, subsection 4 of section 20.1-03-38, and section 20.1-04-12.1 of the North  
Dakota Century Code, relating to hunting, fishing, and gun dog activity fees and hunting guide  
and outfitter licensing requirements.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 20.1-03-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
amended and reenacted as follows:

**20.1-03-12. Schedule of fees for licenses and permits.**

The fees collected under this section for licenses and permits must be deposited with the  
state treasurer and credited to the game and fish fund, except aquatic nuisance species fees  
must be deposited with the state treasurer and credited to the aquatic nuisance species  
program fund. Forty-five dollars of each nonresident big game hunting license fee must be used  
for the private land initiative. The various license and permit fees are as follows:

1. For a resident, age sixteen and over, small game hunting license, ~~ten~~twenty dollars.
2. For a nonresident small game hunting license, ~~one hundred~~one hundred fifty dollars.
3. For a resident big game hunting license, ~~thirty~~thirty-five dollars, except the fee for a  
licensee under age sixteen is ten dollars, except as provided in a gubernatorial  
proclamation issued pursuant to section 20.1-08-04.1.
4. Except for a nonresident who participates on the same basis as a resident in a lottery  
for deer licenses remaining after the second lottery for residents under subsection 4 of



- 1 section 20.1-03-11, for a nonresident big game hunting license, ~~two hundred fiftythree~~  
2 hundred fifty dollars, and for a nonresident bow license, ~~two hundred fiftythree~~  
3 hundred fifty dollars, and a nonrefundable five dollar application fee must accompany  
4 any lottery license fee under this subsection, except as provided in a gubernatorial  
5 proclamation issued pursuant to section 20.1-08-04.1. For a nonresident who  
6 participates on the same basis as a resident in a lottery for deer licenses remaining  
7 after the second lottery for residents, fifty dollars.
- 8 5. For a resident fur-bearer license, ~~fifteen~~twenty dollars.
- 9 6. For a resident fishing license, ~~sixteen~~twenty-five dollars, except that for a resident  
10 sixty-five years or over, a resident totally or permanently disabled, or a resident  
11 disabled veteran who has a fifty percent service-connected disability as determined by  
12 the department of veterans' affairs or has an extra-schedular rating to include  
13 individual unemployability that brings the veteran's total disability ratio to fifty percent,  
14 the license fee is ~~five~~ten dollars.
- 15 7. For a nonresident fishing license, ~~forty-five~~sixty dollars.
- 16 8. For a resident husband and wife fishing license, ~~twenty-two~~forty dollars.
- 17 9. For a nonresident nongame hunting license, ~~fifteen~~twenty-five dollars.
- 18 10. For a resident wild turkey permit, ~~fifteen~~twenty dollars.
- 19 11. For an annual general game license, three dollars.
- 20 12. For a license to a nonresident buyer or shipper of green furs, or that person's agent,  
21 the amount that the nonresident buyer or shipper of green furs would pay for a  
22 nonresident buyer or shipper of green furs license or comparable license in that  
23 person's state of residence, or fifty dollars, whichever is greater.
- 24 13. For a license to a resident buyer or shipper of green furs, eight dollars for each place  
25 of business maintained by that person within this state.
- 26 14. For a license to a resident traveling agent, buyer, or shipper of green furs, twenty  
27 dollars.
- 28 15. For an annual license to practice taxidermy, ~~twenty-five~~forty dollars.
- 29 16. For a permit to ship, by a person having a resident hunting license, during the  
30 respective open seasons, not to exceed in any one season twenty-five game birds, to

- 1 points within this state other than that person's home or to points outside this state,  
2 three dollars.
- 3 17. For a permit to make collections of protected birds and animals for scientific purposes,  
4 ten dollars.
- 5 18. For a motorboat certificate of number and license: Each motorboat under sixteen feet  
6 [4.88 meters] in length, and all canoes, regardless of length, powered by a motor,  
7 ~~eighteen~~thirty dollars. Each motorboat sixteen feet [4.88 meters] in length and over but  
8 shorter than twenty feet [6.1 meters] in length, excluding canoes, ~~thirty-six~~forty-five  
9 dollars. Each motorboat twenty feet [6.1 meters] in length or over excluding canoes,  
10 ~~forty-five~~sixty dollars.
- 11 19. For the taking of undesirable fish from the waters of this state pursuant to section  
12 20.1-06-05, ~~fifteen~~thirty dollars for each hoop-net or trap, and ~~fifteen dollars for each~~or  
13 seine of fifty feet [15.24 meters] or any fraction thereof.
- 14 20. For a resident paddlefish tag annual license, ~~ten~~fifteen dollars per tag.
- 15 21. For a nonresident paddlefish tag annual license, ~~twenty-five dollars and fifty~~  
16 ~~cents~~thirty-five dollars per tag.
- 17 22. For an annual resident license to sell minnows or other live bait at wholesale,  
18 ~~fifty~~seventy dollars.
- 19 23. For an annual license to sell minnows or other live bait at retail, ~~fifteen~~twenty dollars,  
20 except the fee is ~~seventy-five~~one hundred dollars if white suckers are sold.
- 21 24. For an annual license to operate a private fish hatchery, ~~seventy-five~~one hundred  
22 dollars.
- 23 25. ~~For a resident commercial frog license, fifty dollars.~~
- 24 26. ~~For a nonresident commercial frog license, two hundred dollars.~~
- 25 27. ~~For a resident frog license, three dollars.~~
- 26 28. ~~For a resident husband and wife frog license, five dollars.~~
- 27 29. For a shooting preserve operating permit, one hundred dollars, plus thirty cents per  
28 acre [.40 hectare] for each acre [.40 hectare].
- 29 30. ~~For a nonresident waterfowl hunting license, one hundred dollars.~~
- 30 ~~31-26.~~ For a nonresident husband and wife fishing license, ~~sixty~~one hundred dollars.
- 31 ~~32-27.~~ For a nonresident short-term three-day fishing license, ~~twenty-five~~forty dollars.



- 1 ~~33-28.~~ For a nonresident fur-bearer and nongame hunting license, ~~forty~~fifty dollars.
- 2 ~~34-29.~~ For a combination license, ~~fiftysixty~~ dollars.
- 3 ~~35-30.~~ For a white-tailed deer license sold to certified guides or outfitters and provided by
- 4 | them to nonresidents, ~~two hundred fifty~~three hundred fifty dollars.
- 5 ~~36-31.~~ For a resident swan license, ten dollars.
- 6 ~~37-32.~~ For a nonresident swan license, ~~thirty~~fifty dollars.
- 7 ~~38-33.~~ For a resident sandhill crane license, ten dollars.
- 8 ~~39-34.~~ For a nonresident sandhill crane license, thirty dollars.
- 9 ~~40.~~ For a resident commercial clam license, ~~one hundred~~ dollars.
- 10 ~~41.~~ For a nonresident commercial clam license, ~~one thousand~~ dollars.
- 11 ~~42.~~ For a commercial clam dealer's permit, ~~two thousand~~ dollars. In addition, the applicant
- 12 shall submit to the director a surety bond in the sum of ~~two thousand~~ dollars.
- 13 ~~43-35.~~ For an annual class B nonresident license to sell minnows or other live bait at
- 14 wholesale, ~~two hundred fifty~~four hundred dollars.
- 15 ~~44-36.~~ For a bighorn sheep license issued to a nonresident, five hundred dollars.
- 16 ~~45-37.~~ For a nonresident reciprocal trapping license, three hundred fifty dollars.
- 17 ~~46-38.~~ For a nonresident spring white goose license, fifty dollars.
- 18 ~~47-39.~~ For a resident certificate fee, ~~one dollar~~two dollars, and for a nonresident certificate
- 19 fee, ~~two~~five dollars. An agent may not charge a service fee for issuing a resident or
- 20 nonresident certificate fee.
- 21 ~~48-40.~~ For a nonresident short-term ten-day fishing license, ~~thirty-five~~fifty dollars.
- 22 ~~49-41.~~ For a nonresident wild turkey permit, ~~eighty~~one hundred dollars.
- 23 ~~50-42.~~ For a ~~statewide~~ nonresident waterfowl hunting license, one hundred fifty dollars.
- 24 ~~51-43.~~ For an annual class A nonresident license to sell minnows or other live bait at
- 25 wholesale, ~~five hundred~~seven hundred fifty dollars.
- 26 ~~52-44.~~ For a resident early Canada goose season license, ~~five~~ten dollars.
- 27 ~~53-45.~~ For a nonresident early Canada goose season license, fifty dollars.
- 28 ~~54-46.~~ For a resident disabled veteran combined general game, habitat stamp, small game,
- 29 and fur-bearer license, ~~three~~ten dollars.
- 30 ~~55-47.~~ For each motorboat licensed in this state, an aquatic nuisance species fee of fifteen
- 31 dollars valid concurrent with motorboat licensure.

1 ~~56-48.~~ For each motorboat operated on waters of this state and not licensed in this state, an  
2 aquatic nuisance species fee of fifteen dollars for the calendar year in which it is paid.

3 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 20.1-03-36.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5 **20.1-03-36.1. Fee for guide or outfitter license.**

- 6 1. The annual fee to receive a hunting guide license is one hundred dollars for a resident  
7 and four hundred dollars for a nonresident.
- 8 2. The annual fee to receive a fishing outfitter license is ~~one hundred~~ two hundred fifty  
9 dollars for a resident and ~~four hundred~~ five hundred dollars for a nonresident. The  
10 annual fee to receive a fishing outfitter license is fiftyone hundred twenty-five dollars  
11 for a resident and ~~two hundred~~ two hundred fifty dollars for a nonresident if the  
12 individual applying for the license has paid for a hunting guide or outfitter license for  
13 the same year.
- 14 3. The annual fee for a resident to receive a hunting outfitter license is two hundred fifty  
15 dollars for under ten thousand acres [4046.86 hectares] and five hundred dollars for  
16 ten thousand acres [4046.86 hectares] and over on which the outfitter provides  
17 services. The annual fee for a nonresident to receive a hunting outfitter license is two  
18 thousand dollars. The acreage must be presented by the county with a list of lessors  
19 by county in every application for outfitter licensure. The annual permit fee for day  
20 leasing is two hundred dollars. The acreage day leased by county for the preceding  
21 year must be provided to receive a day leasing permit.
- 22 4. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a license is not required for a person  
23 to provide services on real property that person owns or leases for the primary pursuit  
24 of bona fide agricultural interests, for a nonprofit organization registered with the  
25 secretary of state, or for a person that acts as a booking agent for a person that legally  
26 conducts business as an outfitter. However, a person who has been convicted of a  
27 state or federal criminal game or fish violation within the last three years or whose  
28 license to hunt or fish is under suspension or revocation is not exempt from licensure  
29 and is subject to subsection 5 of section 20.1-03-37. A booking agent that refers an  
30 individual to an outfitter under this subsection may receive a fee or commission for the  
31 referral. The director shall determine the number of acres by county exempted from



1 licensure by this subsection and shall publish the results. The director shall provide  
2 written information to the public on the possible liability exposure for outfitting under  
3 this subsection and on the benefits of liability insurance and proper training. For  
4 purposes of this subsection, a booking agent means a person that receives only a fee  
5 for referring or marketing the services of a legal outfitter in this state.

6 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 7 of section 20.1-03-37 of the North Dakota  
7 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 8 7. An applicant for a hunting guide or hunting outfitter license must have legally hunted ~~in~~  
9 ~~this state~~ for part of each of any three years in a manner directly contributing to the  
10 individual's experience and competency as a guide. ~~The department may waive this~~  
11 ~~requirement if the applicant proves that the applicant has legally hunted for parts of at~~  
12 ~~least three years in other states and an outfitter employing that individual would suffer~~  
13 ~~an undue hardship without that individual.~~

14 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of section 20.1-03-38 of the North Dakota  
15 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 16 4. The director may not issue a license to an individual to be a hunting guide or hunting  
17 outfitter unless the individual is proficient in the application of state and federal laws on  
18 the hunting of wild game. The director shall create and administer a written or  
19 electronic examination to test proficiency of hunting guides and outfitters in these laws.  
20 The director shall administer written examinations at least ~~twice~~ three times a year;  
21 however, ~~an~~ a written examination may not be given to an individual within ~~ninety~~ sixty  
22 days after the previous examination, unless an outfitter employing that individual  
23 would suffer an undue hardship without that individual.

24 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 20.1-04-12.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
25 amended and reenacted as follows:

26 **20.1-04-12.1. Gun dog activities - Permit required - Fee.**

- 27 1. The director shall issue a permit for the following gun dog activities:  
28 a. The training exercises of a resident or nonresident professional trainer;  
29 b. The training exercises of a nonresident amateur trainer who brings more than  
30 four gun dogs into the state; and  
31 c. Hosting field trials that use live wild birds.

- 1        2.    The application for the permit must be in a form prescribed by the director and must be
- 2           accompanied by the appropriate fee.
- 3        3.    Upon the receipt of the completed application and fee the director shall issue a permit
- 4           for a specified period of time and shall require the permitholder to submit an annual
- 5           report.
- 6        4.    The fees for the permits are:
- 7           a.    For a resident professional gun dog trainer for training exercises or hosting field
- 8           trials, ~~ten~~twenty dollars.
- 9           b.    For a nonresident professional or amateur gun dog trainer who brings more than
- 10          four gun dogs into the state for training exercises or hosting field trials, one
- 11          hundred dollars.
- 12          c.    ~~For a permit to a nonresident amateur who brings more than four gun dogs into~~
- 13          ~~this state, twenty-five dollars.~~
- 14        5.    For purposes of this section, a professional trainer is a person who trains any breed of
- 15          gun dog for remuneration that is the basis for that person's livelihood.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
ENGROSSED HB 1470**

**Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Sen. Patten, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0842.04003](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1470 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

25.0842.04002  
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council  
staff for Senator Gerhardt  
March 26, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FIRST ENGROSSMENT

### ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1470

Introduced by

Representatives Bosch, Porter

Senator Patten

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 20.1-03-12, and 20.1-03-36.1, subsection 7 of  
2 section 20.1-03-37, subsection 4 of section 20.1-03-38, and section 20.1-04-12.1 of the North  
3 Dakota Century Code, relating to hunting, fishing, and gun dog activity fees and hunting guide  
4 and outfitter licensing requirements.

#### 5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 20.1-03-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

#### 8 **20.1-03-12. Schedule of fees for licenses and permits.**

9 The fees collected under this section for licenses and permits must be deposited with the  
10 state treasurer and credited to the game and fish fund, except aquatic nuisance species fees  
11 must be deposited with the state treasurer and credited to the aquatic nuisance species  
12 program fund. Forty-five dollars of each nonresident big game hunting license fee must be used  
13 for the private land initiative. The various license and permit fees are as follows:

- 14 1. For a resident, age sixteen and over, small game hunting license, ~~tent~~twenty dollars.
- 15 2. For a nonresident small game hunting license, ~~one hundred~~one hundred fifty dollars.
- 16 3. For a resident big game hunting license, ~~thirty~~thirty-five dollars, except the fee for a  
17 licensee under age sixteen is ten dollars, except as provided in a gubernatorial  
18 proclamation issued pursuant to section 20.1-08-04.1.
- 19 4. Except for a nonresident who participates on the same basis as a resident in a lottery  
20 for deer licenses remaining after the second lottery for residents under subsection 4 of



section 20.1-03-11, for a nonresident big game hunting license, ~~two hundred fiftythree~~  
~~hundred fifty~~ dollars, and for a nonresident bow license, ~~two hundred fiftythree~~  
~~hundred fifty~~ dollars, and a nonrefundable five dollar application fee must accompany  
any lottery license fee under this subsection, except as provided in a gubernatorial  
proclamation issued pursuant to section 20.1-08-04.1. For a nonresident who  
participates on the same basis as a resident in a lottery for deer licenses remaining  
after the second lottery for residents, fifty dollars.

5. For a resident fur-bearer license, ~~fifteen~~twenty dollars.

6. For a resident fishing license, ~~sixteen~~twenty-five dollars, except that for a resident  
sixty-five years or over, a resident totally or permanently disabled, or a resident  
disabled veteran who has a fifty percent service-connected disability as determined by  
the department of veterans' affairs or has an extra-schedular rating to include  
individual unemployability that brings the veteran's total disability ratio to fifty percent,  
the license fee is ~~five~~ten dollars.

7. For a nonresident fishing license, ~~forty-five~~sixty dollars.

8. For a resident husband and wife fishing license, ~~twenty-two~~forty dollars.

9. For a nonresident nongame hunting license, ~~fifteen~~twenty-five dollars.

10. For a resident wild turkey permit, ~~fifteen~~twenty dollars.

11. For an annual general game license, three dollars.

12. For a license to a nonresident buyer or shipper of green furs, or that person's agent,  
the amount that the nonresident buyer or shipper of green furs would pay for a  
nonresident buyer or shipper of green furs license or comparable license in that  
person's state of residence, or fifty dollars, whichever is greater.

13. For a license to a resident buyer or shipper of green furs, eight dollars for each place  
of business maintained by that person within this state.

14. For a license to a resident traveling agent, buyer, or shipper of green furs, twenty  
dollars.

15. For an annual license to practice taxidermy, ~~twenty-five~~forty dollars.

16. For a permit to ship, by a person having a resident hunting license, during the  
respective open seasons, not to exceed in any one season twenty-five game birds, to

- 1 points within this state other than that person's home or to points outside this state,  
2 three dollars.
- 3 17. For a permit to make collections of protected birds and animals for scientific purposes,  
4 ten dollars.
- 5 18. For a motorboat certificate of number and license: Each motorboat under sixteen feet  
6 [4.88 meters] in length, and all canoes, regardless of length, powered by a motor,  
7 ~~eighteen~~thirty dollars. Each motorboat sixteen feet [4.88 meters] in length and over but  
8 shorter than twenty feet [6.1 meters] in length, excluding canoes, ~~thirty-six~~forty-five  
9 dollars. Each motorboat twenty feet [6.1 meters] in length or over excluding canoes,  
10 ~~forty-five~~sixty dollars.
- 11 19. For the taking of undesirable fish from the waters of this state pursuant to section  
12 20.1-06-05, ~~fifteen~~thirty dollars for each hoop-net or trap, and ~~fifteen dollars for each~~or  
13 seine of fifty feet [15.24 meters] or any fraction thereof.
- 14 20. For a resident paddlefish tag annual license, ~~ten~~fifteen dollars per tag.
- 15 21. For a nonresident paddlefish tag annual license, ~~twenty-five dollars and fifty~~  
16 ~~cents~~thirty-five dollars per tag.
- 17 22. For an annual resident license to sell minnows or other live bait at wholesale,  
18 ~~fifty~~seventy dollars.
- 19 23. For an annual license to sell minnows or other live bait at retail, ~~fifteen~~twenty dollars,  
20 except the fee is ~~seventy-five~~one hundred dollars if white suckers are sold.
- 21 24. For an annual license to operate a private fish hatchery, ~~seventy-five~~one hundred  
22 dollars.
- 23 25. For a resident commercial frog license, ~~fifty dollars~~.
- 24 26. For a nonresident commercial frog license, ~~two hundred dollars~~.
- 25 27. For a resident frog license, ~~three dollars~~.
- 26 28. For a resident husband and wife frog license, ~~five dollars~~.
- 27 29. For a shooting preserve operating permit, one hundred dollars, plus thirty cents per  
28 acre [.40 hectare] for each acre [.40 hectare].
- 29 30. For a nonresident waterfowl hunting license, ~~one hundred dollars~~.
- 30 31-26. For a nonresident husband and wife fishing license, ~~sixty~~one hundred dollars.
- 31 32-27. For a nonresident short-term three-day fishing license, ~~twenty-five~~forty dollars.

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly

- 1    ~~33.28.~~    For a nonresident fur-bearer and nongame hunting license, ~~forty~~fifty dollars.
- 2    ~~34.29.~~    For a combination license, ~~fifty~~sixty dollars.
- 3    ~~35.30.~~    For a white-tailed deer license sold to certified guides or outfitters and provided by
- 4                them to nonresidents, two hundred fifty dollars.
- 5    ~~36.31.~~    For a resident swan license, ten dollars.
- 6    ~~37.32.~~    For a nonresident swan license, ~~thirty~~fifty dollars.
- 7    ~~38.33.~~    For a resident sandhill crane license, ten dollars.
- 8    ~~39.34.~~    For a nonresident sandhill crane license, thirty dollars.
- 9        ~~40.~~    For a resident commercial clam license, ~~one hundred~~ dollars.
- 10       ~~41.~~    For a nonresident commercial clam license, ~~one thousand~~ dollars.
- 11       ~~42.~~    For a commercial clam dealer's permit, ~~two thousand~~ dollars. In addition, the applicant
- 12               shall submit to the director a surety bond in the sum of ~~two thousand~~ dollars.
- 13    ~~43.35.~~    For an annual class B nonresident license to sell minnows or other live bait at
- 14               wholesale, ~~two hundred fifty~~four hundred dollars.
- 15    ~~44.36.~~    For a bighorn sheep license issued to a nonresident, five hundred dollars.
- 16    ~~45.37.~~    For a nonresident reciprocal trapping license, three hundred fifty dollars.
- 17    ~~46.38.~~    For a nonresident spring white goose license, fifty dollars.
- 18    ~~47.39.~~    For a resident certificate fee, ~~one dollar~~two dollars, and for a nonresident certificate
- 19               fee, ~~two~~five dollars. An agent may not charge a service fee for issuing a resident or
- 20               nonresident certificate fee.
- 21    ~~48.40.~~    For a nonresident short-term ten-day fishing license, ~~thirty-five~~fifty dollars.
- 22    ~~49.41.~~    For a nonresident wild turkey permit, ~~eighty~~one hundred dollars.
- 23    ~~50.42.~~    For a ~~statewide~~ nonresident waterfowl hunting license, one hundred fifty dollars.
- 24    ~~51.43.~~    For an annual class A nonresident license to sell minnows or other live bait at
- 25               wholesale, ~~five hundred~~seven hundred fifty dollars.
- 26    ~~52.44.~~    For a resident early Canada goose season license, ~~five~~ten dollars.
- 27    ~~53.45.~~    For a nonresident early Canada goose season license, fifty dollars.
- 28    ~~54.46.~~    For a resident disabled veteran combined general game, habitat stamp, small game,
- 29               and fur-bearer license, ~~three~~ten dollars.
- 30    ~~55.47.~~    For each motorboat licensed in this state, an aquatic nuisance species fee of fifteen
- 31               dollars valid concurrent with motorboat licensure.

56:48. For each motorboat operated on waters of this state and not licensed in this state, an aquatic nuisance species fee of fifteen dollars for the calendar year in which it is paid.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 20.1-03-36.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**20.1-03-36.1. Fee for guide or outfitter license.**

1. The annual fee to receive a hunting guide license is one hundred dollars for a resident and four hundred dollars for a nonresident.
2. The annual fee to receive a fishing outfitter license is ~~one hundred~~two hundred fifty dollars for a resident and ~~four hundred~~five hundred dollars for a nonresident. The annual fee to receive a fishing outfitter license is ~~fifty~~one hundred twenty-five dollars for a resident and ~~two hundred~~two hundred fifty dollars for a nonresident if the individual applying for the license has paid for a hunting guide or outfitter license for the same year.
3. The annual fee for a resident to receive a hunting outfitter license is two hundred fifty dollars for under ten thousand acres [4046.86 hectares] and five hundred dollars for ten thousand acres [4046.86 hectares] and over on which the outfitter provides services. The annual fee for a nonresident to receive a hunting outfitter license is two thousand dollars. The acreage must be presented by the county with a list of lessors by county in every application for outfitter licensure. The annual permit fee for day leasing is two hundred dollars. The acreage day leased by county for the preceding year must be provided to receive a day leasing permit.
4. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a license is not required for a person to provide services on real property that person owns or leases for the primary pursuit of bona fide agricultural interests, for a nonprofit organization registered with the secretary of state, or for a person that acts as a booking agent for a person that legally conducts business as an outfitter. However, a person who has been convicted of a state or federal criminal game or fish violation within the last three years or whose license to hunt or fish is under suspension or revocation is not exempt from licensure and is subject to subsection 5 of section 20.1-03-37. A booking agent that refers an individual to an outfitter under this subsection may receive a fee or commission for the referral. The director shall determine the number of acres by county exempted from



1 licensure by this subsection and shall publish the results. The director shall provide  
2 written information to the public on the possible liability exposure for outfitting under  
3 this subsection and on the benefits of liability insurance and proper training. For  
4 purposes of this subsection, a booking agent means a person that receives only a fee  
5 for referring or marketing the services of a legal outfitter in this state.

6 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 7 of section 20.1-03-37 of the North Dakota  
7 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

8 7. An applicant for a hunting guide or hunting outfitter license must have legally hunted ~~in-~~  
9 ~~this state~~ for part of each of any three years in a manner directly contributing to the  
10 individual's experience and competency as a guide. ~~The department may waive this~~  
11 ~~requirement if the applicant proves that the applicant has legally hunted for parts of at~~  
12 ~~least three years in other states and an outfitter employing that individual would suffer~~  
13 ~~an undue hardship without that individual.~~

14 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of section 20.1-03-38 of the North Dakota  
15 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

16 4. The director may not issue a license to an individual to be a hunting guide or hunting  
17 outfitter unless the individual is proficient in the application of state and federal laws on  
18 the hunting of wild game. The director shall create and administer a written or  
19 electronic examination to test proficiency of hunting guides and outfitters in these laws.  
20 The director shall administer written examinations at least ~~twice~~three times a year;  
21 however, ~~an~~ a written examination may not be given to an individual within ~~ninety~~sixty  
22 days after the previous examination, unless an outfitter employing that individual  
23 would suffer an undue hardship without that individual.

24 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 20.1-04-12.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
25 amended and reenacted as follows:

26 **20.1-04-12.1. Gun dog activities - Permit required - Fee.**

- 27 1. The director shall issue a permit for the following gun dog activities:
- 28 a. The training exercises of a resident or nonresident professional trainer;
  - 29 b. The training exercises of a nonresident amateur trainer who brings more than  
30 four gun dogs into the state; and
  - 31 c. Hosting field trials that use live wild birds.

- 1        2.    The application for the permit must be in a form prescribed by the director and must be
- 2           accompanied by the appropriate fee.
- 3        3.    Upon the receipt of the completed application and fee the director shall issue a permit
- 4           for a specified period of time and shall require the permitholder to submit an annual
- 5           report.
- 6        4.    The fees for the permits are:
- 7           a.    For a resident professional gun dog trainer for training exercises or hosting field
- 8           trials, ~~ten~~twenty dollars.
- 9           b.    For a nonresident professional or amateur gun dog trainer who brings more than
- 10          four gun dogs into the state for training exercises or hosting field trials, one
- 11          hundred dollars.
- 12          e.    ~~For a permit to a nonresident amateur who brings more than four gun dogs into~~
- 13          ~~this state, twenty-five dollars.~~
- 14        5.    For purposes of this section, a professional trainer is a person who trains any breed of
- 15          gun dog for remuneration that is the basis for that person's livelihood.