

Sixty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2017

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish
2 department; to provide a contingent appropriation; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an
3 exemption.

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

5 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds
6 as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the game and fish fund in the state
7 treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from special funds derived from federal funds and
8 other income, to the game and fish department for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the
9 game and fish department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025,
10 as follows:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
13 Salaries and wages	\$33,741,592	\$4,686,592	\$38,428,184
14 Operating expenses	16,276,782	1,543,716	17,820,498
15 Capital assets	6,774,770	1,773,891	8,548,661
16 Grants—game and fish	8,923,343	1,166,633	10,089,976
17 Land habitat and deer depredation	17,995,597	8,926,706	26,922,303
18 Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000
19 Missouri River enforcement	296,999	20,588	317,587
20 Grants, gifts, and donations	670,133	14,824	684,957
21 Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000
22 Lonetree reservoir	1,818,409	367,205	2,185,614
23 Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000
24 Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000

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1	Aquatic nuisance species program	1,509,009	1,450,655	2,959,664
2	Total special funds	\$89,581,634	\$19,950,810	\$109,532,444
3	Full-time equivalent positions	164.00	6.00	170.00
4	Salaries and wages	\$33,741,592	\$2,746,155	\$36,487,747
5	Operating expenses	16,276,782	1,543,716	17,820,498
6	Capital assets	6,774,770	1,773,891	8,548,661
7	Grants - game and fish	8,923,343	1,166,633	10,089,976
8	Land habitat and deer depredation	17,995,597	9,212,172	27,207,769
9	Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000
10	Missouri River enforcement	296,999	16,342	313,341
11	Grants, gifts, and donations	670,133	6,853	676,986
12	Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000
13	Lonetree reservoir	1,818,409	334,235	2,152,644
14	Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000
15	Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000
16	Aquatic nuisance species program	1,509,009	1,229,835	2,738,844
17	Total special funds	\$89,581,634	\$18,029,832	\$107,611,466
18	Full-time equivalent positions	164.00	6.00	170.00

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

SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. The following amounts reflect the one-time funding items approved by the sixty-seventh legislative assembly for the 2021-23 biennium and the 2023-25 biennium one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act:

	<u>One-Time Funding Description</u>	<u>2021-23</u>	<u>2023-25</u>
24	Additional PLOTS payments	\$1,485,000	\$0
25	Red River basin wildlife and water quality program	500,000	0
26	State radio equipment	801,500	0
27	Aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility	0	850,000
28	In-car video system and body cameras	0	550,000
29	Fisheries pond liners	0	1,000,000
30	Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements	0	350,000
31	Fisheries dam repairs	0	380,000

1	Wash stations and other equipment	0	205,000
2	Uniforms and supplies for new FTE positions	0	89,090
3	Total special funds	\$2,786,500	\$3,424,090
4	<u>Uniforms and supplies for new FTE positions</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>89,090</u>
5	<u>Total special funds</u>	<u>\$2,786,500</u>	<u>\$3,424,090</u>

6 The 2023-25 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget
7 for the 2025-27 biennium. The game and fish department shall report to the appropriations
8 committees of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the
9 biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

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

14 **SECTION 4. CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT**
15 **POSITIONS - RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT.** Subject to the provisions of this
16 section, there is appropriated from federal funds, the sum of \$27,150,000, or so much of the
17 sum as may be necessary, to the game and fish department for the purpose of administering
18 programs approved under the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act, for the biennium
19 beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The department is authorized ~~seven~~four
20 full-time equivalent positions for this purpose. The funding and positions authorized in this
21 section are available only upon ~~passage~~enactment of the federal Recovering America's Wildlife
22 Act and after corresponding federal funds have been made available to the state. The
23 department shall regularly coordinate with and consider input from the federal environmental
24 law impact review committee in the expenditure of funds for conservation or research under this
25 section.

26 **SECTION 5. MIDTERM CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS.** The game and fish department
27 may spend up to \$2,777,778 from other funds in the land habitat and deer depredation line item
28 in section 1 of this Act for national fish and wildlife foundation midterm conservation agreements
29 with private landowners. The department shall limit the term of these agreements to a maximum
30 of thirty years. The department shall provide buyback provisions after the fifteenth, twentieth,

1 and twenty-fifth years of the agreement if the property owner desires to withdraw all or a portion
2 of acreage from the lease.

3 **SECTION 6. EXEMPTION - LINE ITEM TRANSFERS.** Notwithstanding section 54-16-04,
4 the director of the office of management and budget shall transfer up to \$2,000,000 of
5 appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and
6 fish line items in section 1 of this Act as requested by the game and fish department during the
7 biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The game and fish department
8 shall notify the legislative council of any transfers made pursuant to this section.