

**Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

SENATE BILL NO. 2017  
(Appropriations Committee)

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

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

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

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Salaries and wages	\$33,741,592	\$2,746,155	\$36,487,747
Operating expenses	16,276,782	1,543,716	17,820,498
Capital assets	6,774,770	1,773,891	8,548,661
Grants - game and fish	8,923,343	1,166,633	10,089,976
Land habitat and deer depredation	17,995,597	9,212,172	27,207,769
Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000
Missouri River enforcement	296,999	16,342	313,341
Grants, gifts, and donations	670,133	6,853	676,986
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000
Lonetree reservoir	1,818,409	334,235	2,152,644
Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000
Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000
Aquatic nuisance species program	<u>1,509,009</u>	<u>1,229,835</u>	<u>2,738,844</u>
Total special funds	\$89,581,634	\$18,029,832	\$107,611,466
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>
Additional PLOTS payments	\$1,485,000	\$0
Red River basin wildlife and water quality program	500,000	0
State radio equipment	801,500	0
Aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility	0	850,000
In-car video system and body cameras	0	550,000
Fisheries pond liners	0	1,000,000
Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements	0	350,000
Fisheries dam repairs	0	380,000
Wash stations and other equipment	0	205,000
Uniforms and supplies for new FTE positions	<u>0</u>	<u>89,090</u>
Total special funds	\$2,786,500	\$3,424,090

The 2023-25 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget for the 2025-27 biennium. The game and fish department shall report to the appropriations committees of the

sixty-ninth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

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

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

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

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

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2017.

Senate Vote:    Yeas 47            Nays 0            Absent 0

House Vote:    Yeas 67            Nays 24           Absent 3

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Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023,

at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State