

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

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2013-15 executive budget (bills as introduced)	157.00	\$0	\$68,091,737	\$68,091,737
2013-15 legislative appropriations	158.00	0	67,553,639	67,553,639
Legislative increase (decrease) to executive budget	1.00	\$0	(\$538,098)	(\$538,098)
Legislative increase (decrease) to 2011-13 appropriations	1.00	(\$300,000) ¹	\$1,865,897	\$1,565,897

¹Reflects a one-time transfer of \$300,000 from the general fund to the game and fish fund.

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET AND MAJOR FUNDING ITEMS

Salaries and Wages

The legislative action affecting the recommended appropriation for the Game and Fish Department is in accordance with legislative salary and fringe benefits guidelines as contained in House Bill No. 1015. Consistent with the guidelines, a portion of salaries and wages funding (\$816,366) for permanent employees' compensation and benefits is reallocated to an accrued leave payments line item for paying accrued annual leave and sick leave for eligible employees

	Major Items			
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
The legislative action:				
Adjusted funding for state employee salaries and benefits consistent with the legislative compensation package guidelines included in House Bill No. 1015.			(\$360,461)	(\$360,461)
Added 1 FTE game warden position and related operating expenses.	1.00		206,763	206,763
Removed funding for housing subsidies for employees living in areas affected by energy development.			(200,000)	(200,000)
Reduced the amount of funding provided from the game and fish fund for the Wildlife Services program (\$384,400) and the State Board of Animal Health (\$100,000).			(484,400)	(484,400)
Increased grant funding for shooting ranges.			300,000	300,000
Total	1.00	\$0	(\$538,098)	(\$538,098)

FTE Changes

The Legislative Assembly provided funding for 158 FTE positions, 1 FTE position more than the executive budget recommendation and the 2011-13 biennium legislative appropriations. The Legislative Assembly added 1 FTE game warden position and related operating expenses.

Funding for the Department of Agriculture

Wildlife Services - The Legislative Assembly provided \$384,400 from the game and fish fund for Wildlife Services, a decrease of \$484,400 from the 2011-13 biennium appropriations and a decrease of \$384,400 compared to the executive budget recommendation. The Legislative Assembly in House Bill No. 1009 added \$384,400 from the general fund for the Wildlife Services program.

State Board of Animal Health - The 2011-13 biennium appropriation includes \$100,000 from the game and fish fund for a grant to the Department of Agriculture for the State Board of Animal Health, a decrease of \$100,000 from the executive budget recommendation and 2011-13 biennium legislative appropriations. The Legislative Assembly in House Bill No. 1009 added \$100,000 from the general fund for the operations of the State Board of Animal Health.

Funding for Parks and Recreation Department

The 2013-15 biennium appropriation includes \$122,000 from the game and fish fund for a grant to the Parks and Recreation Department for state park boat ramp maintenance and improvements. The 2011-13 biennium appropriation for the Game and Fish Department included a grant of \$122,000 to the Parks and Recreation Department for state park boat ramp maintenance and improvements and a grant of \$400,000 to the Parks and Recreation Department to cost-share in the Graham's Island State Park road grade raise project.

Capital Assets, Payments, and Projects

The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation to provide \$4,237,261 from other funds for the following capital assets, payments, and projects:

Project	Other Funds
Extraordinary repairs	\$485,891
Wildlife management area (WMA) improvements	148,170
Fishing area projects	467,980
Shooting range improvements	425,000
Lonetree WMA heated storage building expansion	150,000
Land acquisition	800,000
Payment in lieu of taxes	1,000,000
Enforcement division equipment	210,000
Fisheries equipment	142,020
Lonetree WMA equipment	67,200
Wildlife division equipment	206,000
Other capital payments	135,000
Total	\$4,237,261

Other Sections in Bill

Funding received for mineral exploration activities on department land - Section 2 identifies \$400,000 in the grants, gifts, and donations line item as funding received by the Game and Fish Department resulting from surface damage, easements, or reclamation on department-owned or department-managed land related to mineral exploration and extraction activities.

Outdoor Heritage Advisory Board members - Section 3 amends subsection 1 of Section 54-17.8-06 as created in House Bill No. 1278 to adjust the membership of the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Advisory Board.

Related Legislation

Hunting and fishing license issuance - House Bill No. 1130 requires county auditors to implement a computerized online licensing system to issue game and fish licenses.

Game and Fish Department land purchases - House Bill No. 1322 requires the Game and Fish Department to provide notice when the department intends to purchase land.

Hunting and fishing license fees - Senate Bill No. 2231 increases the permit fees for various hunting and fishing licenses.