

**Game and Fish Department
Budget No. 720
House Bill Nos. 1017, 1024, and 1419 and Senate Bill No. 2021**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2017-19 legislative appropriations	163.00	\$0	\$83,976,222	\$83,976,222
2017-19 base budget	163.00	0	77,231,739	77,231,739
Legislative increase (decrease) to base budget	0.00	\$0	\$6,744,483	\$6,744,483

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

Salaries and Wages

The Legislative Assembly did not include funding for employee salary increases.

Changes to Base Budget

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
The legislative action:				
Adjusted funding for base payroll changes for cost-to-continue 2015-17 biennium salaries and benefit increases and for other base payroll changes.			(\$614,362)	(\$614,362)
Added funding for employee health insurance premiums to reflect a revised premium rate of \$1,240.83 per month.			420,749	420,749
Increased funding for credit card fee charges on the purchase of hunting and fishing licenses.			180,000	180,000
Reduced funding for rent allowance for oil-impacted areas.			(100,000)	(100,000)
Increased base funding for extraordinary repairs of buildings.			97,000	97,000
Added funding for replacement of pond liners.			572,000	572,000
Added funding for replacement of lighting in the salmon building.			130,000	130,000
Increased funding for capital assets.			200,000	200,000
Added funding for equipment replacement.			747,000	747,000
Increased funding for grants from Pittman-Robertson federal funds.			1,590,000	1,590,000
Increased funding for operating expenses.			839,186	839,186
Reduced funding for capital assets.			(1,063,040)	(1,063,040)
Provided funding for the Parks and Recreation Department for operation of boating access at state parks.			122,000	122,000
Increased funding for grants.			1,353,772	1,353,772
Increased funding for land habitat and deer depredation.			1,153,880	1,153,880
Increased funding for noxious weed control operating expenses.			120,135	120,135
Reduced funding for the Lonetree Reservoir operating expenses.			(80,485)	(80,485)

Added increased funding for a grant to the Agriculture Commissioner for wildlife services.			115,600	115,600
Reduced funding for grants, gifts, and donations.			(37,014)	(37,014)
Reduced funding for Missouri River enforcement.			(662)	(662)
Added one-time funding to replace an airplane.			250,000	250,000
Added one-time funding of other funds received from Adjutant General loan proceeds for law enforcement costs relating to unlawful activity associated with the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline (House Bill No. 1024).			423,724	423,724
Added funding from the game and fish fund for establishing and administering a shooting sports grant program (House Bill No. 1419).			250,000	250,000
Added one-time funding for an electronic payment processing system to be implemented by the Information Technology Department, of which \$36,000 is from loan proceeds from the Bank of North Dakota and \$39,000 is for repayment of the loan (Senate Bill No. 2021).			75,000	75,000
Total	<u>0.00</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$6,744,483</u>	<u>\$6,744,483</u>

FTE Changes

The Legislative Assembly approved 163 FTE positions for the Game and Fish Department for the 2017-19 biennium, the same as the 2015-17 biennium.

One-Time Funding

The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$748,724 of one-time funding to the department for the 2017-19 biennium. Of this amount, \$250,000 is to replace an airplane, \$423,724 is for costs relating to the Dakota Access Pipeline protest, and \$75,000 is for the implementation of an electronic payment processing system.

Capital Assets, Payments, and Projects

The Legislative Assembly provided \$7,425,960 from other funds for capital assets, payments, and projects during the 2017-19 biennium. The schedule below details funding provided in the 2015-17 and 2017-19 bienniums for capital assets, payments, and projects:

Projects	2015-17 Biennium	2017-19 Biennium
Extraordinary repairs	\$1,125,000	\$1,215,790
Wildlife management area improvements	100,000	653,170
Fishing area projects	985,000	1,387,000
Shooting range improvements	400,000	1,030,000
Lonetree wildlife management area improvements	50,000	50,000
Land acquisition	800,000	800,000
Payment in lieu of taxes	1,000,000	1,363,000
Enforcement division equipment	209,997	245,000
Fisheries equipment	277,002	170,000
Lonetree wildlife management area equipment	65,000	30,000
Wildlife Division equipment	200,997	232,000
Devils Lake storage building	200,000	
State Fair shooting skills building	200,000	
Airplane replacement		250,000
Total	\$5,612,996	\$7,425,960

Other Sections in House Bill No. 1017

Health insurance increase - Section 2 identifies the amount of funding included in the agency budget for state employee health insurance premium rate increases during the 2017-19 biennium.

Grants, gifts, and donations line - Section 3 identifies \$400,000 received by the Game and Fish Department in the grants, gifts, and donations line item for surface damage, easements, or reclamation on department-owned or managed properties as a result of mineral exploration and extraction activities.

Related Legislation

House Bill No. 1024 - Section 2 provides an appropriation of \$423,724 for salaries and wages (\$221,795) and operating expenses (\$201,929) to the Game and Fish Department from special funds received from the Adjutant General for law enforcement support which were incurred after June 30, 2015, related to unlawful activity associated with the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline project.

House Bill No. 1025 - Amends North Dakota Century Code Section 20.1-04-07 and creates a new section to Chapter 20.1-05.1 relating to Governor's proclamations and the authority to authorize special allocation of hunting licenses. The bill eliminates Governor's proclamations for hunting licenses provided for raffles and authorizes the Director of the Game and Fish Department to issue annual special allocation hunting licenses.

House Bill No. 1150 - Creates a new section to Chapter 20.1-03 relating to bonus or preference points awarded for lotteries. The bill authorizes individuals to apply for a hunting license, but to be excluded from the drawing in order to obtain the preference points for that hunting season.

House Bill No. 1204 - Amends Sections 20.1-03-01.5 and 20.1-03-11, relating to apprentice hunter validation and hunter education; and to repeal Section 20.1-04-05, relating to protection of bald eagles. The bill decreases the age of individuals who may qualify for an apprentice hunter validation from 16 years of age or older to 12 years of age or older. The bill amends Section 20.1-03-11(1)(a) to allow individuals whose 11th birthday occurs in the same year as a youth deer hunting season to receive a statewide white-tailed antlerless deer permit. The bill repeals Section 20.1-04-05 relating to the protection of eagles.

House Bill No. 1207 - Creates Section 20.1-11-14 relating to property abandoned on state game refuges, leased or managed real property, and state game or fish management areas. The bill authorizes the Game and Fish Department to seize tangible property presumed to be abandoned on state game refuges, real property leased or managed by the Game and Fish Department, and state game or fish management areas, and authorizes the Director to transfer the property to the report all poachers program for the disposal of the seized property after 90 days. The proceeds from the sale of seized property are to be deposited in the North Dakota wildlife federation report all poachers fund.

House Bill No. 1419 - Appropriates \$250,000 from the game and fish fund to the Game and Fish Department for establishing and administering a shooting sports grant program during the 2017-19 biennium.

Senate Bill No. 2021 - Authorizes the Game and Fish Department to obtain a loan of \$36,000 from the Bank of North Dakota, which will be used by the Information Technology Department to implement an electronic payment processing system for credit card fees. An appropriation of \$39,000 is also provided for the repayment of the loan, resulting in a total appropriation of \$75,000.

Senate Bill No. 2284 - Amends Section 20.1-03-17 relating to the issuance of hunting and fishing licenses. The bill changes the amount an agent may charge a purchaser. The bill changes the fee an agent may charge a purchaser from fifty cents for each license to 3 percent of the total license fee excluding the certificate fee.

Senate Bill No. 2318 - Amends Section 20.1-04-15 relating to the opening day of the pheasant season. The bill amends Section 20.1-04-15 to require the pheasant season opening day to be no later than October 12th of any year.