

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2024 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 396
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB396-DFG-DWC-04-16-24
Title: DNR BIG GAME GUIDE PERMIT PROGRAM
Sponsor: RESOURCES
Requester: (H)Resources

Department: Department of Fish and Game
Appropriation: Wildlife Conservation
Allocation: Wildlife Conservation
OMB Component Number: 473

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2025 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2025 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2025	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
Personal Services	112.3		112.3	112.3	112.3	112.3	112.3
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	112.3	0.0	112.3	112.3	112.3	112.3	112.3

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	112.3		112.3	112.3	112.3	112.3	112.3
Total	112.3	0.0	112.3	112.3	112.3	112.3	112.3

Positions

Full-time	1.0		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2024) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2025) cost: 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)

Does the bill create or modify a new fund or account? No
(Supplemental/Capital/New Fund - discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Not applicable; initial version.

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Division:	Office of the Commissioner	Date:	04/16/2024 01:30 PM
Approved By:	Bonnie Jensen, Administrative Services Director	Date:	04/16/24
Agency:	Department of Fish and Game		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB396

Analysis

This legislation would create a guide concession permit program managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on state lands, essentially limiting the number of guides that could operate in a designated area.

The bill requires coordination and consultation among state agencies, each with specific responsibilities within the program to address elements of wildlife conservation, land management, and regulation of professional guiding services. To implement and administer the new guide concession program, DNR, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), the Board of Game (BOG), and the Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB) are responsible for and required to consult together on different aspects of the program, including adopting regulations; issuing, renewing, transferring, suspending, or revoking a guide concession permit; establishing guide concession areas; and determining the number of permits and authorizations available for each area.

Establishment of a guide concession area would be initiated via a BOG proposal; a person may submit a proposal to establish an area to the BOG for consideration at a regularly scheduled region meeting. Additionally, the BOG is specifically tasked with determining the number of permits for both full and limited permit types issued for a guide concession area and the specific authorizations attached to each permit. The BOG may establish an advisory board composed of representatives of the involved agencies (DNR, ADF&G, BGCSB, and BOG) and interested members of the public to assist the board in making that determination.

While this version of the bill transfers the responsibility to determine the number of permits from the department to the BOG, additional Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) staff time would still be required to prepare and provide to the BOG, DNR, and BGCSB wildlife data as well as resident, non-resident, guided, and unguided hunt data to inform consideration and determination of guide concession areas, the number of permits, and the specific authorizations for each permit. DWC routinely develops information for the BOG on proposals related to wildlife management. However, this new guide concession program creates additional duties and is more focused on social issues rather than directed wildlife management.

Additionally, as one of the consultation agencies, the department expects to be heavily involved in other aspects of this new program, including participating in the advisory board process to determine the number of and authorizations for permits, the development of DNR regulations for the program, reviewing and scoring of applications with DNR as part of the open and competitive process for issuance of permits, and the process for suspending or revoking a guide concession permit.

The department anticipates personal services costs to DWC for an additional Wildlife Biologist III (permanent full-time) position at \$112.3 to assist with standing up the new program and managing the department's ongoing responsibilities.