

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2024 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	HB 243
Fiscal Note Number:	1
(H) Publish Date:	1/31/2024

Identifier: HB243-DFG-DWC-01-20-24  
 Title: BISON DRAW PERMIT APPLICATION FEE  
 Sponsor: CRONK  
 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	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2025 Request	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>					
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

None							
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Positions**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

**Change in Revenues**

1024 Fish/Game (Other)	(198.8)		(198.8)	(198.8)	(198.8)	(198.8)	(198.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(198.8)</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>(198.8)</b>	<b>(198.8)</b>	<b>(198.8)</b>	<b>(198.8)</b>	<b>(198.8)</b>

**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 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?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:	01/20/2024 08:00 AM
Approved By:	Bonnie Jensen, Administrative Services Director	Date:	01/20/24
Agency:	Division of Administrative Services		

## FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## Analysis

This legislation amends Fish and Game permit application requirements under AS 16.05.346 by reducing the application fee for a drawing permit for hunting bison from \$10 to \$5, consistent with subsection (c). This change would bring bison hunt application fees in line with that of other species, except for muskoxen which is \$10.

Under AS 16.05.130, money accruing to the state from sport fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses, tags, or permit fees goes into the Fish and Game Fund (FGF) for the purpose of protection, propagation, investigation, and restoration of sport fish and game resources and the expenses of administering by the applicable division. In other words, fees from drawing permit hunts go into a subaccount for the Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) to use for game management and research for all game species as well as public services (i.e., hunter education) across Alaska.

Most drawing hunts are available to residents and nonresidents. Drawing hunts require an application fee and are awarded by lottery, and the application period for drawing hunts is during November and December each year. Bison hunts in Alaska have limited eligibility requirements. For example, a resident who wins a bison drawing permit is ineligible to apply for another bison permit for 10 years, while a nonresident who wins a bison drawing permit is ineligible to apply for another bison permit indefinitely. There are additional requirements depending on the hunt area, including Game Management Units 11, 13D, 19, and 20D.

The Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) anticipates a negative fiscal impact as a result of this legislation. If enacted, the bill will reduce the amount of revenue per application for the bison draw. It is difficult to assess whether a decrease in application cost will encourage more applications that may reduce the loss in revenue. The fee for all bison drawing permit hunt applications has been set at \$10 per application since 1992. The number of applications for bison hunts have been stable for all hunts averaging 39,751 applications and \$397.5 per year over the last 10 years. The longevity of the current price per application and continued strong interest in the permits suggests hunters understand the probability of being drawn and still chose to participate despite the current fee.

Given the limited eligibility pool and historical data, ADF&G anticipates the fee reduction will not substantially increase the number of draw applications that are submitted, meaning we do not expect a rise in applications to a degree that will offset the entire revenue difference. Using the 10-year average, there could be up to a \$198.8 (half the average of \$397.5) decrease in revenue to the DWC FGF subaccount. However, this cannot be predicted with certainty. If ADF&G receives more applications than in prior years, any such loss would be mitigated.