

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2025 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	SB 97
Fiscal Note Number:	4
(S) Publish Date:	5/2/2025

Identifier: SB097-DFG-DWC-4-25-25  
 Title: BIG GAME PERMIT PROGRAM  
 Sponsor: RESOURCES  
 Requester: (S)Finance

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)

	FY2026	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2026 Request	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>						
Personal Services		112.3	112.3	112.3	112.3	112.3	112.3	112.3
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>112.3</b>	<b>112.3</b>	<b>112.3</b>	<b>112.3</b>	<b>112.3</b>	<b>112.3</b>	<b>112.3</b>

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

1004 Gen Fund (UGF)		112.3	112.3	112.3	112.3	112.3	112.3	112.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>112.3</b>	<b>112.3</b>	<b>112.3</b>	<b>112.3</b>	<b>112.3</b>	<b>112.3</b>	<b>112.3</b>

**Positions**

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

**Change in Revenues**

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>

**Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2025) cost:** 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*

**Estimated CAPITAL (FY2026) 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 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?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:**

Revised to zero out FY2026 Appropriation Requested column.
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 Agency: Department of Fish and Game

Phone: (907)465-6137  
 Date: 04/25/2025 05:00 PM  
 Date: 04/25/25

REPORTED OUT OF  
SFC 05/01/2025

## FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**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.

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.