

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2025 Legislative Session

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

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

Department: Department of Fish and Game
 Appropriation: Statewide Support Services
 Allocation: Boards of Fisheries and Game
 OMB Component Number: 2048

Expenditures/Revenues

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

	FY2026 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2026 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services		9.5					13.8	6.9
Travel		2.6					5.8	2.5
Services		2.3					4.5	2.3
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	14.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.1	11.7

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund (UGF)		14.4					24.1	11.7
Total	0.0	14.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.1	11.7

Positions

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

Change in Revenues

None								
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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? Yes
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 01/01/26

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.

Utilizing the BOG process to establish guide concession areas and determine permit numbers and authorizations will increase meeting length for the region meetings in which a proposal is put forward for consideration. While it is difficult to estimate the number of proposals this would generate, the department anticipates proposals of this nature could increase meeting length up to one additional day for each region meeting. The BOG meets on a three-year cycle in various locations around the state. Additionally, the bill requires the BOG to establish an initial guide concession area in consultation with the BGCSB, DNR, and ADF&G. The department anticipates the BOG could establish the initial area and number of permits and authorizations during a regularly scheduled meeting or at a special, virtual meeting, or potentially both.

Based on past expenses specific to upcoming meeting locations, the department anticipates increased costs to ADF&G's Board Support Section of \$14.4 for FY2026, \$24.1 for FY2030, and \$11.7 for FY2031. Personal services costs include board member honorarium for virtual and extended meetings and possibly subsequent advisory board and full board meetings to determine permit numbers and authorizations; travel costs include lodging and per diem for board members and Board Support Section staff; and services costs include meeting venue fees and the required legal notices for regulatory meetings.

After the initial guide concession area is established by the BOG and implemented by DNR, the BOG may not accept or consider a proposal to establish additional guide concession areas for a period of at least three years. For this reason, there are no costs reflected to the Board Support Section in FY2027, FY2028, and FY2029.