

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2025 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	SB 97
Fiscal Note Number:	7
(H) Publish Date:	9/30/2025

Identifier: SB097-DNR-DMLW-05-17-25(CC)
 Title: BIG GAME GUIDE PERMIT PROGRAM
 Sponsor: RESOURCES
 Requester: CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Department: Department of Natural Resources
 Appropriation: Fire Suppression, Land & Water Resources
 Allocation: Mining, Land & Water
 OMB Component Number: 3002

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	291.6		291.6	291.6	291.6	291.6	291.6	291.6
Travel	10.0		10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Services	30.0		30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0
Commodities	10.0							
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	341.6	0.0	331.6	331.6	331.6	331.6	331.6	331.6

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1005 GF/Prgm (DGF)	341.6		331.6	331.6	331.6	331.6	331.6	331.6
Total	341.6	0.0	331.6	331.6	331.6	331.6	331.6	331.6

Positions

Full-time	2.0		2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None	***		***	***	***	***	***
Total	***	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 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 01/01/27

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

CC: Updated fiscal note to align intended funding of services to be related to the passage of SB 97 during SLA2025 rather than as part of the Governor's FY26 budget request. The Conference Committee changed the fund source from Unrestricted General Funds (fund code 1004) to General Fund - Program Receipts (fund code 1005).

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
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Analysis

This bill would establish a guide concession permit program administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in coordination and consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), the Board of Game (BOG), and the Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB). The intent is to limit the number of individuals authorized to provide big game commercial guiding services on state land. DNR would work in consultation with the BGCSB, BOG and ADF&G to adopt regulations directing the issuance, transfer, suspension, and revocation of concession permits. DNR would create application forms and scoring criteria. DNR would be responsible for enforcing the land use authorization portion of the program, and may issue citations for violation of the program statutes and regulations.

In this bill, establishment of a concession area is initiated via a BOG proposal; a proposal is submitted to the BOG for the board to consider at its next regularly scheduled meeting in the region the area is proposed. The BOG will make a determination on a proposal based on criteria in the bill. The BOG is also responsible for determining the number of permits and types of permits (full or limited) within a concession area and the specific authorizations attached to each permit. The BOG may establish an advisory panel made up of agency representatives and interested members of the public to help inform decisions.

This is an entirely new program that is separate from DNR's current land use authorization programs for guides, and the Division of Mining, Land and Water anticipates a significant effort will be required for the development and adoption of regulations, creation of forms and a bail schedule for enforcement, and coordination and implementation of a hunting guide concession program with BOG, BGCSB, and ADF&G. This effort will require new staff in the division as the program is developed and fully implemented.

DMLW FY2026 Costs: \$341.6

Personal Services \$291.6

One permanent Full-Time Natural Resource Manager 2, range 20, Fairbanks - \$163.7

One permanent Full-Time Natural Resource Specialist 2/3 Flex, range 16/18, Fairbanks - \$127.9

Travel \$10.0

Services \$30.0

Core Costs by PCN (\$15.0 each annually)

Commodities \$10.0 Initial position setup (\$5.0 each one-time costs)

DNR must adopt regulations prior to the implementation of a hunting guide concession program addressed in this legislation.

Changes in Revenue

The Department is authorized to charge an annual fee for a concession permit. The fee would be determined by regulation. Presently, there are too many variables for DNR to determine potential revenue under this new program. For instance, much of the process lies outside of DNR control with multiple steps and outcomes dependant on each other. It is reasonable to assume that if the program was to be established statewide and numerous guides held a concession the administrative cost of the program could be covered by those that are awarded concession permits.