

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO.

Game and fish-free and reduced license funding.

Sponsored by: Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural
Resources Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to game and fish; requiring the state
2 auditor to transfer funds to reimburse the game and fish
3 department for free and reduced license fees; creating a
4 continuing appropriation; specifying applicability;
5 requiring reporting; and providing for an effective date.

6

7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 23-1-504(c) and (d) is amended to
10 read:

11 *****

12 *****

13 **STAFF COMMENT**

Subsections (a) and (b) are provided below for the Committee's reference. Since these provisions would not be amended under this bill draft, they would be deleted in the final bill draft.

23-1-504. Free and reduced price license revenue recoupment program.

(a) Not later than July 31, 2007, and not later than July 31 of each subsequent year thereafter, the chief fiscal officer of the game and fish department shall prepare and certify a report of licenses sold or issued in the previous calendar year under the following statutes:

(i) W.S. 23-2-201(f) and (g);

(ii) W.S. 23-2-101(j)(xi), (xvi), (xvii), (xx), (xxi), (xxxii), (xxxiii), (xliv) and (xlv);

(iii) W.S. 23-2-301(c)(xiii);

(iv) W.S. 23-1-705(a), (d), (e) and (h);

(v) W.S. 23-2-207(a); and

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2 (vi) W.S. 23-1-302(q).

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4 (b) The chief fiscal officer of the game and fish
5 department shall submit to the state auditor the report
6 created under subsection (a) of this section with a payment
7 request for the number of licenses of each type sold or
8 issued multiplied by the difference between the amount
9 received by the department for that license and the cost of
10 a full price adult license corresponding with each type of
11 license sold or issued.

12

13 (c) Upon receipt of the report and payment request,
14 the state auditor shall transfer to the game and fish fund
15 the amount claimed on the payment request from ~~funds~~
16 ~~appropriated for this program to the extent available~~ the
17 general fund as soon as practicable after July 31 of the
18 applicable year.

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20 *****

21 **STAFF COMMENT**

22 The Committee may wish to consider funding the payment
23 request from the Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account
24 (LSRA) instead of the General Fund. An obligation of the
25 General Fund could create expenditure issues for the State
26 Auditor's Office due to the fluctuating nature of the
27 General Fund. If the Committee chooses to fund from the

1 General Fund, then one option could be to prorate the
2 funding if there are not enough funds currently available
3 in the General Fund to pay for the reimbursement.
4

5 The Committee may also wish to consider if there are
6 insufficient funds in the General Fund to meet the
7 requested amount, or the requested amount goes beyond any
8 appropriated amount, then any secondary funding from the
9 LSRA could have a cap on the amount available. A cap on
10 either the General Fund or LSRA funds could act as a
11 backstop measure on the availability of potentially
12 changing recoupment request amounts and establish a defined
13 maximum State obligation.

14 *****
15 *****
16

17 (d) The game and fish commission shall prepare a
18 ~~biennial budget request report prior to each budget session~~
19 ~~of the legislature for the purpose of funding the free and~~
20 ~~reduced price license revenue recoupment program and shall~~
21 ~~submit the request report to the governor pursuant to W.S.~~
22 ~~9-2-1010 through 9-2-1013 in a manner similar to the~~
23 ~~process specified in W.S. 9-2-104~~ and submit an annual
24 report to the state budget department in accordance with
25 W.S. 9-2-1014 on the funding received for the free and
26 reduced price license revenue recoupment program under this
27 section for the previous calendar year.

28 *****
29 *****
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31 **STAFF COMMENT**

31 The Committee may wish to consider whether they would also
32 like the Game and Fish Commission to report to the
33 legislature in addition to the State Budget Department.

Section 2. This act shall apply to licenses specified in W.S. 23-1-504(a) that are sold or issued in calendar year 2026 and thereafter.

STAFF COMMENT

With the timing of the statute going into effect on July 1, 2027, and the request deadline being July 31 of each respective year, an appropriation would likely not be necessary.

If the Committee would like to recoup the free and reduced price licenses costs from 2025, an appropriation would likely be necessary. The Committee may also want to consider such an appropriation if the Committee wanted to delay the continuing appropriation then.

For the Committee's information, in the 2025 budget exception requests from the State Auditor's Office, the exception request was \$2,075,442 for the Game and Fish License Revenue Recoupment Program for the 2027-2028 biennium. The annual amount would be \$1,037,721.

Section 3. This act is effective July 1, 2027.

(END)