

PREPARED BY:
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February 20, 2026
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LB 979

Revision: 01

FISCAL NOTE

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

Revised to reflect AM1877.

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)					
EXPENDITURES	GENERAL	CASH	FEDERAL	REVOLVING	TOTAL
FY2025-2026	0	0	0	0	0
FY2026-2027	0	0	0	0	0
FY2027-2028	0	0	0	0	0
FY2028-2029	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUE	GENERAL	CASH	FEDERAL	REVOLVING	TOTAL
FY2025-2026	0	0	0	0	0
FY2026-2027	0	0	0	0	0
FY2027-2028	0	0	0	0	0
FY2028-2029	0	0	0	0	0

Any Fiscal Notes received from state agencies and political subdivisions are attached following the Legislative Fiscal Analyst Estimate.

LB979 as amended by AM1877 clarifies that anyone possessing, transporting, selling, purchasing, bartering, trading, importing, or exporting any wildlife taken, or conspiring to do these violations of the Game Law; will be guilty of a Class I misdemeanor.

This bill would become effective three calendar months after the Legislature adjourns.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) has indicated no fiscal impact from this bill. Any fee or fee cap increases would have to go through both a public hearing and a vote of the Commission; if and when it may be deemed necessary in the future.

There is no basis to disagree with NGPC's estimation of no fiscal impact at this time.

Please complete ALL (5) blanks in the first three lines.

2026

LB⁽¹⁾ 979, AM1877

FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: ⁽²⁾ 05 Supreme Court

Prepared by: ⁽³⁾ Eric Asboe Date Prepared: ⁽⁴⁾ 2/5/2026 Phone: ⁽⁵⁾ 402-326-9215

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	<u>FY 2026-27</u>		<u>FY 2026-27</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
CASH FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
FEDERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
OTHER FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____

Explanation of Estimate:

Minimal fiscal impact from LB979, as amended by AM1877, to provide judicial education. No additional resources required.

BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

Personal Services:

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2026-27</u>	<u>2027-28</u>
	<u>26-27</u>	<u>27-28</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Benefits.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
... Operating.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
.... Travel.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
. Capital outlay.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Aid.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
. Capital improvements.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL.....	_____	_____	_____	_____

Please complete ALL (5) blanks in the first three lines.

2026

LB⁽¹⁾ 979 AM 2147 & AM 1877 Game Law and the State Boat Act

FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: ⁽²⁾

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Prepared by: ⁽³⁾ Kay Mencil

Date Prepared: ⁽⁴⁾ 02/18/2026

Phone: ⁽⁵⁾ 402-471-5189

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	FY 2026-27		FY 2027-28	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
CASH FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
FEDERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
OTHER FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____

Explanation of Estimate:

The proposed legislation as amended clarifies the conditions under which the Game Fund may be used for wildlife abatement and provides clarity for the use of Game Law Investigation Cash Fund. It authorizes the Commission to collect fees for fish and wildlife education programs through the Fish and Wildlife Educational Fund. The bill will increase the maximum amount the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission could charge for several non-resident and resident permits, grants authority for the Commission to adopt rules and regulations governing preference and bonus points, and updates boating safety requirements and vessel registration fees.

AM2147 –Establishes a nonrefundable application fee for turkey permits and turkey preference points. It also includes the maximum fee for the nonrefundable application, resident and nonresident preference points, and resident and nonresident turkey permits.

Section 2 – Clarifies the definition of wildlife abatement.

Section 3 – Authorizes the use of the Game Fund for wildlife abatement related to damages caused by big game.

Section 4 – Codifies the Game Law Investigation Cash Fund to include language to purchase investigative vehicles, investigative equipment and provide investigative training.

Section 5 – 6 Codifies the Commission’s authority to accept contributions to the Fish and Wildlife education fund and collect fees for fish and wildlife education programs.

Section 7 – References increasing the maximum permit issuance fee.

Section 8 - Addresses increasing the maximum permit fees that may be charged for non-resident, or resident lifetime permits (fur harvesting, hunting, fishing or combination hunting and fishing).

BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

Personal Services:

POSITION TITLE	NUMBER OF POSITIONS		2026-27 <u>EXPENDITURES</u>	2027-28 <u>EXPENDITURES</u>
	<u>26-27</u>	<u>27-28</u>		
Benefits.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
... Operating.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
... Travel.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
... Capital outlay.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Aid.....	_____	_____	_____	_____

Capital improvements.....
TOTAL.....

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- Section 9 – Authorizes provisions to allow the Commission to expend Nebraska Habitat and Nebraska Aquatic Habitat fund while retaining twenty-five percent of the lifetime aquatic habitat stamp sales.
- Section 10 - Addresses increasing the maximum fee cap for the nonrefundable deer application and increases the cap of nonresident and resident deer permits. Provides the Commission with the flexibility to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for issuing deer preference points.
- Section 11 - Addresses increasing the maximum fee cap for the nonrefundable antelope application, increases the base permit fee for non-resident antelope permits and increases the maximum fee cap for nonresident and resident antelope permits, while providing the Commission with the flexibility to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for issuing antelope preference points.
- Section 12 – Provides the Commission with the flexibility to adopt rules and regulation for issuing elk preference and bonus points.
- Section 13 – Increases the maximum fee for a nonrefundable application for mountain sheep.
- Section 14 – Provides the Commission with the flexibility to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations prescribing issuance of free-earned landowner elk permit.
- Section 15 – Increases the maximum fee cap for Controlled Shooting Area Licenses.
- Section 16 - Provides the Commission with the flexibility to adopt rules and regulation for issuing paddlefish preference points.
- Section 17 – Classifies the possession, transport, sale, trade, or otherwise handling of wildlife taken or possessed in violation of the Game Law as a Class I misdemeanor. (AM1877)*
- Section 18 – Increases the Boating registration fee for Class I through IV vessels.
- Section 19 – Removes outdated language for life jackets.

Increasing the non-refundable application fees, issue fees, boat registration, and permit fee caps do not cause a fiscal impact without Commission action. Public hearings and a Commission vote are required if increases are deemed necessary for future calendar years. Therefore, there is no fiscal impact.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE		
LB: 979	AM: 1877	AGENCY/POLT. SUB: 05 Supreme Court
REVIEWED BY: Joe Massey	DATE: 2/5/2026	PHONE: (402) 471-4181
COMMENTS: No basis to disagree with the 05 Supreme Court assessment of minimal fiscal impact from LB 979 AM 1877		

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE		
LB: 979	AM: 2147, 1877	AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
REVIEWED BY: Joe Massey	DATE: 2/20/2026	PHONE: (402) 471-4181
COMMENTS: No basis to disagree with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's assessment of no fiscal impact from LB 979 AM 2147, 1877.		