

FISCAL NOTE
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

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 would both amend and add the following to current statutes:

- Makes changes to the Game Law Investigation Cash Fund:
 1. Introduces a new use for the Game Law Investigation Cash Fund to be used for wildlife abatement related to big game damage (after providing a definition for wildlife abatement); and
 2. Provides that the Game Law Investigation Cash Fund may be used to purchase investigative vehicles, investigative equipment and provide investigative training.
- Allows the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) the ability to:
 1. Accept contributions to the Fish and Wildlife Education Fund;
 2. Collect fees for the Fish and Wildlife Education program;
 3. Ensure the fees do not exceed the staffing and material costs for the program; and
 4. Direct the State Treasurer to credit these fees to the Game and Parks Commission Educational Fund.
- Provides that NGPC has the flexibility to adopt rules and regulations for:
 1. Issuing paddlefish preference points;
 2. Issuing deer preference points;
 3. Issuing elk preference and bonus points; and
 4. Prescribing the issuance of free-earned landowner elk permits.
- Permits the NGPC to address increasing the maximum fees or fee caps for:
 1. Nonrefundable deer applications;
 2. Caps of nonresident and resident deer permits;
 3. Nonrefundable mountain sheep applications;
 4. Caps for non-resident, or resident lifetime permits for:
 1. Fur harvesting;
 2. Hunting;
 3. Fishing; and
 5. Combination Hunting/Fishing;
 6. Controlled Shooting Area Licenses; and
 7. Boating registration fees for Class I through Class IV vessels.
- Repeals outdated life jacket language;
- Authorizes the NGPC to expend Nebraska Habitat and Nebraska Aquatic Habitat funds while retaining 25% of the lifetime aquatic habitat stamp sales; and
- Makes it unlawful to possess, transport, sell, purchase, barter, trade, import, or export any wildlife taken, possessed, transported, or exported in violation of the Game Law.

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

Both the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) and the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) have indicated no fiscal impact.

As this bill would require public hearings and a NGPC vote to eventually increase any fees if they so choose, there is no basis to disagree with these estimations of no fiscal impact at this time.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE			
LB: 979	AM:	AGENCY/POLT. SUB:	: Department of Motor Vehicles
REVIEWED BY: Joe Massey	DATE: 1/15/2026		PHONE: (402) 471-4181
COMMENTS: The Department of Motor Vehicles' assessment of no net fiscal impact from LB979 appears reasonable.			

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE			
LB: 979	AM:	AGENCY/POLT. SUB:	: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
REVIEWED BY: Joe Massey	DATE: 1/15/2026		PHONE: (402) 471-4181
COMMENTS: The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's assessment of no net fiscal impact from LB979 appears reasonable.			

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

2026

LB⁽¹⁾ 979

FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: ⁽²⁾

Motor Vehicles

Prepared by: ⁽³⁾ Bart Moore

Date Prepared: ⁽⁴⁾ 1/12/26

Phone: ⁽⁵⁾ 402-471-3902

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

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

Explanation of Estimate:

No Fiscal Impact

BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

Personal Services:

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u> <u>26-27</u>	<u>27-28</u>	<u>2026-27</u> <u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>2027-28</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 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 Mencl

Date Prepared: ⁽⁴⁾ 01/15/2026

Phone: ⁽⁵⁾ 402-471-5189

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	<u>FY 2026-27</u>		<u>FY 2027-28</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:

The proposed legislation 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.

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).

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 – Prohibits the possession, transport, sale, trade, or otherwise handling of wildlife taken or possessed in violation of the Game Law.

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.

BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

Personal Services: