

2025 Legislative Session Review

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Director
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New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Legislation Effecting the Commission and Department

- 18 bills introduced directly related to Commission and/or Department
- 3 bills signed into law
 - SB 5 Game Commission Reform
 - HB 2 General Appropriations Act of 2025
 - HB 450 Capital Outlay Projects



Senate Bill 5 Game Commission Reform

1. Changes the names of the Commission and Department to the State Wildlife Commission and the Department of Wildlife
2. Sets qualification requirements for State Game Commissioners
3. Creates a nominating committee to provide a list of qualified candidates to the Governor for appointment to the Wildlife Commission
4. Sets staggered terms for Commissioners (6 years after initial term), defines reasons for removal, and sets term limits (2)
5. Creates four advisory members to the Commission
6. Provides for a license fee increase expected to generate \$9-10 million in new revenue
7. Allows for the Commission to increase fees based on CPI annually and requires increases every 5 years
8. Allows Commission to set vendor fee by rule and creates a new class of license for non-residents – Shed Hunter License
9. Allows the Commission to regulate species of wildlife not listed as protected in statute by rule given consideration of certain criteria
10. Relieves the Department of the requirement to respond to depredation by species protected by rule adopted by the Commission
11. Adds invertebrates to the definition of wildlife
12. Defines Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and requires reporting on data and expenditures for these species



House Bill 2 General Appropriations Act of 2025

- Budget approved as requested
 - \$52.9 million in Department Funds
 - \$3.3 million from the Land Of Enchantment (LOE) Fund
 - \$3.5 million from the Government Results and Opportunity (GRO) Fund
 - \$1.0 million special appropriation for bighorn sheep conservation actions



House Bill 450 Capital Outlay Projects

- Approved as requested
 - \$1.5 million Sykes Act Fund (Habitat Stamp)
 - \$500,000 Bond Interest and Retirement Fund



Questions?



New Mexico Department of Game and Fish