CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 6(RES)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/17/17
Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES RAUSCHER, Johnson, Kopp, Eastman, Millett, Tilton, Kito, Johnston, Chenault, Thompson, Saddler, Pruitt, Birch, Wilson, Parish, Reinbold, Talerico, Sullivan-Leonard, Knopp, Neuman, Josephson, Drummond

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act establishing the Jonesville Public Use Area."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

* Section 1. AS 41.23 is amended by adding new sections to read:

Sec. 41.23.280. Purpose of AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289. The purpose of AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289 is to protect, maintain, enhance, and perpetuate the present use of the area described in AS 41.23.286 as the Jonesville Public Use Area. The Jonesville Public Use Area is established to

(1) protect, maintain, perpetuate, and enhance year-round general public recreation;

(2) protect and maintain migratory waterfowl nesting areas and habitats for moose, Dall sheep, brown bear, and other fish and wildlife so that the public may continue to enjoy the fish and wildlife of the Jonesville Public Use Area;

(3) provide opportunities for the public to enjoy the area through a full spectrum of public uses, including the maintenance and enhancement of off-road vehicle and nonmotorized recreational opportunities for the public; and
allow

(A) continued mineral exploration and development activities;

(B) motorized access to private property, including property in which a person has a subsurface right, in the Jonesville Public Use Area; and

(C) additional public uses of the area determined by the commissioner to be compatible with this section.

Sec. 41.23.282. Management. (a) The commissioner is responsible for the management of the surface and subsurface estate of the Jonesville Public Use Area consistent with the purposes of AS 41.23.280. After adequate public hearings, the commissioner may designate incompatible uses and shall adopt and may revise a management plan for the Jonesville Public Use Area. The management plan must include provisions for the enforcement of the plan and compliance with the requirements of the plan. The commissioner shall consult with the Department of Fish and Game in the adoption and revision of the management plan.

(b) Subject to valid existing rights, the commissioner may not dispose of the surface estate in state land within the Jonesville Public Use Area.

(c) The commissioner of fish and game, the Board of Fisheries, and the Board of Game are responsible for the management of fish and game resources and the public use of fish and wildlife in the Jonesville Public Use Area consistent with the purposes of AS 41.23.280.

(d) The Jonesville Public Use Area may not be managed as a unit of the state park system.

(e) The commissioner shall identify wetland areas within the Jonesville Public Use Area and provide for the protection and use of the wetland areas in the management plan.

(f) The state may not acquire by eminent domain privately owned land within the boundaries described in AS 41.23.286 but may acquire privately owned land located within the boundaries described in AS 41.23.286 by purchase, exchange, or otherwise for inclusion in the Jonesville Public Use Area.

Sec. 41.23.284. Incompatible uses. (a) Except as provided in this section, the commissioner may prohibit or restrict uses determined to be incompatible with the
purposes of the Jonesville Public Use Area under AS 41.23.280 within the state-owned land and water described in AS 41.23.286.

(b) Nothing in AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289 prohibits the Department of Fish and Game from engaging in rehabilitation, enhancement, and development of fish and wildlife habitat within an area described in AS 41.23.286 that is consistent with the purposes stated in AS 41.21.280.

(c) The commissioner may not restrict

(1) lawful fishing, hunting, or trapping rights allowed under a regulation of the Board of Fisheries or the Board of Game within the Jonesville Public Use Area;

(2) the use of weapons, including firearms, in the Jonesville Public Use Area, except in locations where the commissioner determines that the use of weapons constitutes a threat to public safety; or

(3) lawful mineral exploration and development activities within the Jonesville Public Use Area.

(d) The commissioner shall

(1) allow the Jonesville Public Use Area to be used for activities that

(A) are compatible with the reasons for establishing the public use area in AS 41.23.280; and

(B) include operating all-terrain vehicles on trails or in areas designated or constructed for their use, aircraft, and watercraft; snowmachining, horseback riding, hiking, bicycling, dog sledding, cross-country skiing, skijoring, camping, hunting, fishing, trapping, wildlife viewing, photography, berry picking; and, where permitted, rifle and pistol ranges, parking of vehicles, and lawful mineral exploration and mining; and

(2) recognize the existing off-road motor vehicle trails and the access those trails provide within the Jonesville Public Use Area, make accommodations that will provide the shortest possible route to avoid critical habitat, conduct trail rehabilitation in a way that minimizes damage, maintain and enhance off-road motor vehicle options and opportunities in the Jonesville Public Use Area, and provide for responsible use of the public use area.
(e) The commissioner of public safety and the commissioner of fish and game shall have necessary access to the Jonesville Public Use Area for fish and game management, research, and enforcement purposes.

(f) If the commissioner determines that a use is incompatible with one or more other uses in a portion of the Jonesville Public Use Area, the commissioner shall state in the management plan adopted or revised under AS 41.23.282:

(1) each determination of incompatibility;
(2) the specific area where the incompatibility is determined to exist;
(3) the time within which the incompatibility is determined to exist; and
(4) the reasons for the determination of incompatibility.

Sec. 41.23.286. Jonesville Public Use Area. Subject to valid existing rights, the vacant and unappropriated state-owned land and water and the state land and water acquired in the future that lie within the following boundaries described in this section are designated as the Jonesville Public Use Area, are reserved for all uses compatible with their primary function as public use land, and are assigned to the department for control and management:

(1) Township 19 North, Range 2 East, Seward Meridian
Section 1: That portion easterly of Moose Creek
Section 12: That portion of N1/2, N1/2SW1/4, and N1/2SE1/4 easterly of Moose Creek
Section 13: NE1/4, SE1/4NW1/4, and S1/2
Section 24: All;

(2) Township 19 North, Range 3 East, Seward Meridian
Section 2: All
Section 3: All
Section 4: All
Section 5: All
Section 6: All
Section 7: All
Section 8: All
Section 9: All
Section 10: All
Section 11: All
Section 14: NE1/4
Section 15: N1/2NE1/4 and the North 960 feet of the East 1,815 feet of the NW1/4 for each Record of Survey filed as 86-85RS P.R.D.
Section 16: All
Section 17: All
Section 18: All
Section 19: NE1/4, E1/2NW1/4, NE1/4SW1/4, NW1/4SE1/4, and Government Lots 1, 2, and 4
Section 20: N1/2NE1/4, N1/2NW1/4, and SW1/4NW1/4;
(3) Township 20 North, Range 2 East, Seward Meridian
Section 36: That portion easterly of Moose Creek;
(4) Township 20 North, Range 3 East, Seward Meridian
Section 31: All
Section 32: All
Section 33: All
Section 34: All
Section 35: All.

Sec. 41.23.288. Enforcement authority. (a) In the Jonesville Public Use Area described in AS 41.23.286, the following persons are peace officers of the state for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289 and regulations adopted under AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289:
(1) an employee of the department or another person authorized by the commissioner;
(2) a peace officer, as that term is defined in AS 01.10.060.
(b) A person designated in (a) of this section may, when enforcing the provisions of AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289 or a regulation adopted under AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289,
(1) execute a warrant or other process issued by an officer or court of
competent jurisdiction;

(2) administer or take an oath, affirmation, or affidavit; and

(3) issue a citation or arrest a person who violates a provision of AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289 or a regulation adopted under AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289.

(c) A citation issued under (b) of this section must comply with the provisions of AS 12.25.175 - 12.25.230.

Sec. 41.23.289. Penalty. (a) A person who violates a provision of, or regulation adopted under, AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289 is guilty of a violation as defined in AS 11.81.900.

(b) The supreme court shall establish by order or rule a schedule of bail amounts for violations under (a) of this section that allow the disposition of a citation without a court appearance.

* Sec. 2. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

TRANSITION: SCHEDULE OF BAIL AMOUNTS. Notwithstanding AS 41.23.289(b), enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, the supreme court shall have 90 days from the date that the Department of Natural Resources adopts regulations to implement this Act to establish a schedule of bail amounts for violations of AS 41.23.289(a) that allow the disposition of a citation without a court appearance.