

Representative Gary Knopp

District 30

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Sponsor Statement

HB 263

“An act exempting certain water taxi operators from regulation as transportation services by the big game commercial services board and providing for an effective date”

AS 08.54.790 exempts certain air taxis' from having to obtain a transporter permit from Alaska Department of commerce, community, and economic development if; carrying big game hunters is only an incidental portion of their business; if they do not charge more than the usual tariff or charter rate and do not advertise transportation services or big game hunting services to the public.

HB 263 would add licensed water taxis', meeting the current stipulations of air taxis', to this exemption. According to big game commercial services, in the 2017 calendar year only nine transporter permits were issued statewide by DCED. To operate as a water taxi, you must also comply with the Untied States Coast Guard and all other state licensing regulations.

This exemption would allow individuals to travel to the hunting grounds by their choice of water or air taxi. Currently water taxi operators incur additional burden and expense of obtaining another permit that is not required by the exempt air taxi operators . The inclusion of the water taxi operators levels the playing field for both means of transportation providing “incidental” services to hunters.