



# SB 164: Confidentiality of Animal & Crop Records

## Office of the State Veterinarian

Senate Resources Committee

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# SB 164: Confidentiality of Records

- To keep the Alaska agricultural sector healthy, to encourage its growth, and to prevent unfair competitive practices requires a change to the Alaska Statutes, specifically to keep certain information about agricultural imports, animal identification, premise, and test results confidential
- Amends 03.05 to add a new section that would make certain records held by DEC and DNR confidential
- This bill would provide agriculture producers with similar confidentiality protection already afforded to other commercial industries (commercial fisheries, e.g.)
- Coordinated effort with the Departments of Environmental Conservation and Natural Resources



# SB 164: Need Overview

- Farmers are reluctant to subject their animals and crops to voluntary testing for disease because the results of those tests are not proprietary as they are in other states.
- Public disclosure of this information can have potentially negative impacts on their business, and since they are not mandated tests, they opt not to test at all.
- An outbreak of disease could cause significant threats to animal health (both wild and domestic), public health, the environment or the food supply.
- Holding animal import health records, import permit information and voluntary disease testing or product quality testing as proprietary allows farmers to keep this business information confidential.





# Office of the State Veterinarian

The Office of the State Veterinarian is responsible for the prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases in all animals in the state including livestock and pets, safeguarding the health and food production capacity of the State's livestock, reindeer, and poultry and preventing the transmission of animal diseases to humans.







# Program Functions and Record Examples

- “One Health” Animal Disease and Traceability
  - Import Regulations for Animals
  - Disease Surveillance and Investigation
  - Movi Study – Wild and Domestic Sheep and Goats
- Dairy
  - Sanitation at Dairy Farms and Milk Facilities
  - Dairy Products Safe for Human Consumption
  - New Recipes
- Reindeer Slaughter
- FSMA Produce Safety Rule
- Fish Tissue Monitoring





# Alaska Animal Imports: OSV Records

		Cattle	Sheep/ Goats	Equine	Swine	Poultry
FY2014	# Permits	6	26	77	19	220
	# Animals	37	92	203	2,050	14,000
FY2015	# Permits	5	21	63	13	490
	# Animals	22	38	118	668	30,623
FY2016	# Permits	14	22	203	31	1,645
	# Animals	169	298	352	2,668	128,372
FY2017	# Permits	22	17	192	37	1,230
	# Animals	401	85	366	2,319	91,929

\*These numbers do not include imports that do not require a permit (i.e. pets), but do require a health certificate from the state or country of origin.



# Disease Outbreaks in Alaska

- Brucellosis
  - ~20% of cases are associated with recreational and subsistence hunting
- Domestic Animals
  - Pets (brucellosis canis, leptospirosis, rabies, avian, swine, and canine influenza)
  - Poultry (Marek's Disease, fowl cholera, avian influenza)
  - Baby Chicks (salmonella)
  - Outbreaks at the Fair (Strep. suis, Malignant Catharral Fever)
  - Domestic Rabbits (herpes virus)
- Treats & Raw Foods
  - Poultry Deaths (SouthCentral; toxin)
  - Horses (Kodiak; aflatoxin)
  - Domestic Pets (salmonella, chemical contaminants)
- Records can still be disclosed if there is a threat to the health or safety of an animal, crop, or the public





# SB 164: Sectional Analysis

## Section 1:

- Makes certain animal and crop records maintained by the Departments of Environmental Conservation and Natural Resources exempt from the Alaska Public Records Act if they
  - 1) are importation records that identify a particular animal, crop, business, or individual;
  - 2) contain animal or crop test results if certain conditions are met; or
  - 3) are trade secrets or proprietary business or financial information.
- Allows the Departments to disclose the above described records in the case that the Departments determine that there is a threat to the health or safety of an animal, crop, or the public.
- Provides the definition of “varietal”.

## Section 2:

- Allows the Departments of Environmental Conservation and Natural Resources to adopt regulations to implement the Act.

## Section 3:

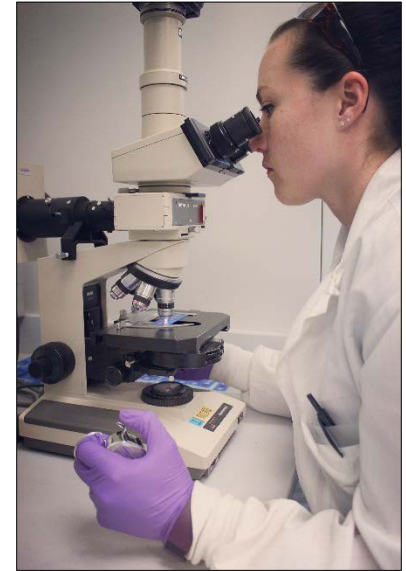
- Provides for an immediate effective date for Section 2.





# SB 164: Benefits

- Routine surveillance testing may encourage better animal husbandry and crop management, resulting in a higher quality product for sale and increased production efficiency.
- Early identification and testing of sick or dead animals and crops decreases the potential for more serious outbreaks and spread of disease to other farms, plants or wildlife.
- Confidentiality of proprietary data prevents unfair advantage to a competitor regarding product development, marketing strategy, and source of animal inventory.





# Questions?



Office of the State Veterinarian Website:  
<http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/vet.aspx>