



# HB315: Confidentiality of Animal & Crop Records

## Office of the State Veterinarian

House Resources Committee

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State Veterinarian

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# HB315: Confidentiality of Records

- Keeps certain information about agricultural imports, animal identification, premise, and animal and crop test results confidential
- Allows information disclosure if there is a threat to the health or safety of an animal, crop, or the public.
- 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



# HB315: 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.





# Records vs. Information

## Record:

State of Alaska  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
Office of the State Veterinarian  
5251 Dr. MLK Jr. Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99507  
(907) 375-8200

125382  
Permit Number  
(if required by State of destination)

Certificate of Veterinary Inspection and Permit to Ship  
(Expires 30 days from date of issuance)

CONSIGNOR				CONSIGNEE			
Name:	SANTA CLAUS			Name:	Good Boys and Girls of TEXAS		
Address:	25 CANDY CANE LANE			Address:	STATE WIDE, 254 COUNTIES		
City/State/Zip:	NORTH POLE, ALASKA 99705			City/State/Country/Zip:	TEXAS, PO BOX 100		
State of Origin:	ALASKA			Destination:	UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREE		
Telephone number:	NO SERVICE, email U.S. Postal Service only			Telephone number:	GENERAL DELIVERY		

ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION												
Species	Breed/Color	Age/ Birth Date	Sex	Name Official ID	Tattoo/ Microchip	Rabies		Manufacturer	Serial number	T.B./BRUCELLOSIS		Other Vaccinations/Test(s) Brucellosis/TB/EIA
						Vaccine 1 year	3 year			Date of Rabies Vaccination	TEST	
Reindeer	Brown/white	Adult	M	DARTER	SANTA						NEGATIVE	CWD Certified Free D #AK0001
			M	DANCER								
			M	PRANCER								
			M	VIXEN								
			M	COMET								
			M	CRIPED								
			M	DINNER								
			M	BUTZEN								
			M	RUDOLPH								

Reason for Movement: Toy DELIVERY Transported by: ☒ Air ☐ Car/Truck ☐ Marine Hwy (Ferry)

ISSUING VETERINARIAN'S CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify, that I have inspected the 9 animal(s) described above and found them to be healthy and apparently free from symptoms of contagious, infectious or communicable disease. To my knowledge the animal(s) has/have not been exposed to rabies and did/did not originate from a quarantine area.

Signature: R.F. Guelach, VMD Date: Winter Solstice 12/21/2017  
Printed name: Robert F. Guelach AK License # AK V 255 NVAP# 025100  
Address: 5251 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave City: Anchorage State/Zip code AK 99507  
Name of Clinic or business: Office of the State Veterinarian Telephone: (907) 375-8215

Form #18-401 (rev 9/2012) Required Distribution: White-Owner Yellow-State Veterinarian (receiving state) Pink-State Veterinarian (Alaska)

## Information:

8 male and 1 female reindeer were exported by air from Alaska to Texas in December. All animals were from a Chronic Wasting Disease free herd.

## Not Included:

- Personal info (name, address, phone number)
- Specific destination info
- Test results tied to a particular person, animal, or farm



# HB315: Release of Information or Records

- Example of Release of Information: Zoonotic disease outbreak (Rabies, Salmonella, Campylobacter, Brucellosis, etc.)
  - DEC would coordinate w/DHSS, ADF&G, and notify local public health and veterinary health authorities for heightened awareness and public outreach.
  - DEC would disclose the general area of the outbreak (e.g., Bethel), information about the source (wild or domestic animal), and number of cases.
- Example of Release of Records: Animal Cruelty Investigation
  - DEC would release records to local or state law enforcement to aid in a criminal investigation, including the owner's name, location of the farm, animal identification (ear tag, tattoo, microchip, etc.).





# HB315 will...

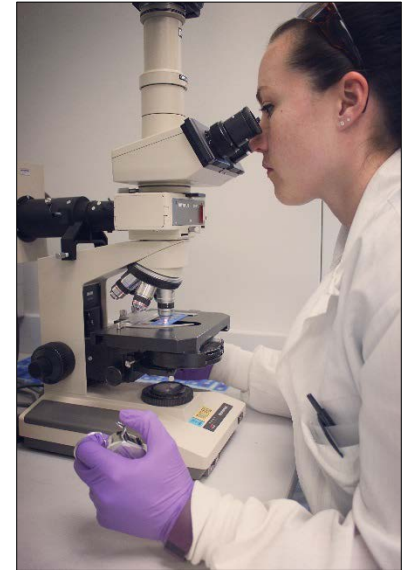
- Encourage better animal husbandry and crop management through routine surveillance testing, resulting in a higher quality product for sale and increased production efficiency.
- Allow for early identification and testing of sick or dead animals and crops, decreasing the potential for more serious outbreaks and spread of disease to other farms, plants or wildlife.
- Protect proprietary data from disclosure to a competitor regarding product development, marketing strategy, and source of animal inventory.





# HB315 will not...

- Prevent DEC, DNR or ADF&G from providing generalized or summarized information to the public about animal and crop activities, diseases, or threats.
- Hamper efforts to control a disease outbreak or mitigate a threat to an animal, crop, or the public.
- Limit law enforcement agencies from investigating cases of animal cruelty.





# HB315: 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.





# Questions?



<http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/vet.aspx>

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