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Sponsor Statement Senate Bill 190

Senate Bill 190 deals with licensing and disciplinary functions under the supervision of the Big Game Commercial Services Board and creates a retired status master guide-outfitter license. The changes to statute outlined in this sponsor statement were recommended by members of the Big Game Commercial Services Board and numerous other professional hunting guides in the state.

The bill would provide retiring guides or outfitters the opportunity to receive, for a one-time payment, a retired master guide-outfitter license. An individual holding a retired status master guide-outfitter license may not guide or outfit in the state under the retire status license, but it will serve as a symbolic recognition of their achievements in the profession. The license is valid for the life of its holder and does not need to be renewed.

The bill also clarifies in statute that a person licensed as a registered guide-outfitter may be employed by another registered guide-outfitter to provide the services of a class-A assistant guide in any game management unit. The purpose is to make the statutes more clear and rid them of ambiguity regarding the relationship between a registered guide who is employed by another registered guide on a specific hunt.

Senate Bill 190 also gives the Big Game Commercial Services Board the ability to suspend or permanently revoke a transporter license or any class of guide license if the board finds, after a hearing, that the licensee engaged in conduct involving unprofessionalism, moral turpitude or gross immorality.

Further, the bill will update the statutes in Title 8 that inform the court of which violations by a licensee shall result in board suspension of a license and which violations may result in a board suspension of a license.