



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Lynn Gattis

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HB 161 - Sponsor Statement

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game operates several programs where big game permits for auction or raffle are donated to nonprofit sporting groups. These permits support state wildlife management and are called a "Governor's license".

HB 161 expands the scope of this program. It allows for more permits to be issued for more species, gives the non-profit organization a greater share of the proceeds from the auction of the permit, and changes the definition of which non-profits can auction off permits.

The statutory framework currently governing the two most important programs – Delta Bison and Big Game – is so dated, groups have become ambivalent about participating. HB 161 increases the financial incentive for the program so that the groups approved to operate the auctions are able to retain 30% of the net profits. The bill further invigorates the game auction process by increasing the number of permits issued as well as the species available to hunt. In all, up to 41 permits per year may be issued for various species as opposed to the 19 per year that are currently available under AS 16.05.343.

Nurturing and improving these public/private partnerships is foundational to the department's resource conservation plan. This management model is based on set of principals known as the North American Model of Wildlife Management, which is a user-pay system of licensing fees. Around these principles, resource managers and sportsmen support wildlife and habitat conservation. This encourages the hunting community to work in partnership with state agencies to foster ethical and competent hunting skills and assume responsibility for the stewardship of the resource.

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