

SB 190 – Sponsor Statement

“An act permitting a guide-outfitter to delegate certain guide services to a person who is not licensed by the Big Game Commercial Services Board.”

Senate Bill 190, version U, authorizes a Registered Guide-Outfitter to delegate certain duties to unlicensed personnel, as long as a licensed registered guide-outfitter or class A assistant guide is physically present for certain delegated duties. In addition, it authorizes unlicensed personnel to be compensated for carrying out those delegated duties.

Current Alaska statutes (AS 08.54) prohibit these activities.

Example 1: A registered guide out-fitter cannot hire unlicensed personnel to pack meat from the field and receive compensation.

As you can imagine, it is difficult to find personnel to work for free! This legislation would allow unlicensed personnel, including local residents, to be hired and compensated for packing meat from the field without having to obtain a license.

Example 2: A registered guide-outfitter or a class A assistant guide cannot delegate guide services, for training purposes, to unlicensed personnel to perform certain tasks while either a registered guide-outfitter or class A assistant guide is physically present.

Note: The class A assistant guide must be:

- Employed by and under the supervision of the registered guide-outfitter who contracted for the big game hunt; and
- Be licensed in the game management unit where the hunt is conducted.

This makes it difficult to train and prepare perspective guides to further advance in the Big Game Guiding industry when they cannot be compensated for carrying out those duties. Not many people work for free!

This creates an apprentice structure to allow unlicensed personnel to be prepared for and qualify for the ‘assistant guide’ level in the industry.

Under current statutes: An assistant guide candidate must have at least 60 days of Alaska hunting experience and 30 days must be in a hunting camp being instructed by a licensed guide-outfitter.

In summary, it is difficult to find personnel to work for free and it also makes it difficult to train and prepare perspective guides for a future in the industry.

I respectfully ask for your support of SB 190. Thank you!!

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