



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 "Governor's licenses".

Auctioning these permits is an economic process that makes money for the state. Proceeds generated from the auctions go toward conservation and protection or education projects in conjunction with the department. House Bill 161 expands the scope of this program by allowing more permits to be issued for more species. It further incentivizes the program by giving the non-profit organization a greater share of the proceeds from the auction of the permit. Any 501(c)3 can enter a memorandum of agreement with the department and apply for a permit.

From 2009 to 2013, the sale of these permits brought in \$460,000 in revenue. This money is deposited in the "Fish and Game" fund and is used to directly benefit purchasers of general hunting, fishing and trapping licenses.

My office has worked closely with the department as well as a large number of sporting groups to create a bill that will benefit hunters and ensure that the department has continued funding to manage this valuable resource well into the future.

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