

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SENATOR PETER A. MICCICHE

Sponsor Statement

DISTRICT Q

Anchor Point

Clam Gulch

Cohoe

Diamond Ridge

Fox River

Fritz Creek

Funny River

Halibut Cove

Happy Valley

Homer

Kachemak City

Kachemak Selo

Kalifornsky

Kasilof

Kenai

Nikolaevsk

Ninilchik

Razdolna

Ridgeway

Seldovia

Soldotna

Voznesenka

CS SB 77 (RES) "An Act Relating to Big Game Hunting With Children."

Since long before statehood, Alaska has enjoyed a long history rich with the subsistence, social and cultural benefits, as well as the generational outdoor traditions derived from Alaska's hunting culture. Such traditions and the outdoor legacy in the best interest of all Alaskans, is most effectively passed on to the next generation by encouraging young people to hunt responsibly.

The Board of Game currently possesses the ability to establish special hunts to ensure the responsible instruction and indoctrination of young hunters. This bill will give the board more flexibility to establish youth hunts. The bill will also make an exception to the rule that both the youth hunter and the adult hunter's tags must be punched whenever an animal is harvested in a youth hunt.

In the specific case where the hunt is for black-tailed deer in areas where the annual limit is one deer, only one tag would have to be punched. This exception would allow a family to harvest a deer for each tag rather than one deer for two tags. Without this provision, it is likely that there could be low or non-existent participation in youth deer hunts in these areas.

Encouraging youth to responsibly participate and carry on Alaska's great hunting tradition and outdoor heritage is very important for youth development and quality multi-generational outdoor experiences. I hope you will consider supporting this important bill.