

CSSB 190 – Sponsor Statement

“An act permitting certain persons who are not licensed by the Big Game Commercial Services Board to provide or assist in providing certain guide services.”

CSSB190 background:

In the late 1980’s the Legislature reviewed and enacted statutes related to the guide-outfitter industry and unfortunately the statutes enacted inadvertently made it illegal to compensate unlicensed persons to pack game meat , hides, and perform other basic camp chores. Additionally, the guide-outfitter industry couldn’t hire an unlicensed person in an apprenticeship/training structure to perform certain guide services and receive compensation.

This legislation provides solutions for these issues:

- By allowing unlicensed persons to pack game meat and perform other basic chores and receive compensation;
- It enables the guide-outfitter industry to hire unlicensed persons for apprenticeship training and qualify for an “assistant guide” and receive compensation; and,
- Lastly, this legislation clarifies existing statutes and makes a registered guide-outfitter equally responsible for a violation of state or federal wildlife or game or guiding statute or regulation committed by a person while the person provides guide services for the guide-outfitter during the course of a person’s employment.

Note: It is currently illegal to compensate an unlicensed person for packing meat under AS 08.54.790(9) (C) which defines packing as a guiding service. Also in (9) a guide requires being compensated, and being compensated to pack meat without a license is guiding without a license.

*This legislation would allow unlicensed personnel, including local residents, to be hired **and compensated** for packing game meat, hides, etc.. from the field without having to obtain a license.*

*This bill also creates an apprenticeship structure for unlicensed personnel to receive training and preparation as a perspective guide and to further advance in the Big Game Guiding industry and to meet the qualifications for applying for the ‘assistant guide’ level in the industry **and to be compensated.***

As you can imagine, it is difficult to find personnel to work for free!

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