

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!!