

Alaska State Legislature

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Health and Social Services Committee
Transportation Committee
Economic Development Committee



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HB 112 Sponsor Statement

House Bill 112 bill repeals the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC), assigns the commission's adjudicatory functions to the Office of Administrative Hearings, and transfers the commission's other duties to the Department of Fish and Game (DFG).

In 1973, the Alaska Legislature enacted the Limited Entry Act (AS 16.43) creating the first comprehensive limited entry program in the country. The Act created the CFEC as a regulatory body and quasi-judicial agency to implement and administer the program. Since its inception the CFEC has limited entry to 68 fisheries, considered nearly 23,000 applications and annually issues over 29,000 fishing permits and vessel licenses. Currently there are 28 license applications remaining and few fisheries are being monitored for limited entry.

HB112 offers a significant cost savings to the state. In addition to deleting the three commissioner positions; DFG can find efficiencies in the Research, Licensing and IT functions at the CFEC. Any additional revenue from permit fees would go to the Division of Commercial Fisheries to benefit the resource and the fishermen who depend on it. Additionally, administering limited entry permits under the DFG umbrella would streamline the permitting and licensing process for fishermen. Adjudications currently handled by the commissioners would be handled by the Office of Administrative Hearings; an independent office that manages a multitude of hearings for other state agencies.

In times of limited budgetary resources we need to look hard at making cuts to keep vital state services in place and I feel the bill will accomplish exactly that.

This bill would become effective 90 days after is signed into law by the Governor.