

FY17 OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT #5

OFFERED IN: The Senate Finance Committee

TO: SB 139 / SB 140

OFFERED BY: Senator Dunleavy

DEPARTMENT: Department of Fish and Game

APPROPRIATION: Wildlife Conservation

ADD INTENT: It is the intent of the legislature that the department shall engage in cooperative, collaborative and consulting efforts with non-departmental entities to increase orphaned moose calf survival rates through expedited rescue, rehabilitation, and reintroduction efforts. These efforts will be performed under department oversight by identified wildlife rehabilitators. It is further the intent that department state funds not be used to compensate non-departmental entities engaged to assist with moose calf survival efforts.

EXPLANATION: The intent of this amendment is to allow for non-departmental orphaned moose calf entities to provide enhanced rescue, rehabilitation and reintroduction efforts. Currently, only the department rescues abandoned moose calves. However, the department does not have a 24/7 orphaned moose rescue program, meaning that critical delays and missed opportunities can occur. If non-departmental wildlife rehabilitators were enabled to be leads in moose calf rescue activities, it would provide the department an alternative avenue for Alaska to realize increased orphaned moose calf survival rates.