



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Fish and Game

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
Headquarters Office

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February 4, 2016

The Honorable Benjamin Nageak, Co-Chair
House Resources Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 126
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable David Talerico, Co-Chair
House Resources Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 126
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Nageak and Talerico:

The Department of Fish and Game respectfully requests HB 286 "An Act relating to sport fishing, hunting, or trapping licenses, tags, or permits; relating to penalties for certain sport fishing, hunting, and trapping license violations; relating to restrictions on the issuance of sport fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses; creating violations and amending fines and restitution for certain fish and game offenses; relating to commercial fishing violations; allowing lost federal matching funds from the Pittman - Robertson, Dingell - Johnson/Wallop - Breaux programs to be included in an order of restitution; adding a definition of 'electronic form'; amending Rule 5(a)(4), Alaska Rules of Minor Offense Procedure; and providing for an effective date," be scheduled for a hearing in the House Resources Committee at your earliest convenience.

The purpose of this legislation is to provide the Alaska Wildlife Troopers the authority to issue correctable citations, similar to that available for driver's licenses. This bill will prohibit a person from receiving a sport fishing, hunting, or trapping license in Alaska if their privileges have been suspended or revoked in another state. This bill increases the restitution for animals harvested illegally, standardizes penalties for offenses, and also provides an additional tool for the Alaska Wildlife Troopers in charging wildlife, fisheries, and habitat crimes by allowing for some offenses to be reduced to violations. Finally, the bill allows for the display of a license in an electronic format to reflect modernization efforts made to the fish and game licensing program.

Your favorable consideration of this request is appreciated. If you need any additional information, please contact Kevin Brooks, Deputy Commissioner for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at 907-465-6138.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sam Cotten".

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

cc: Darwin Peterson, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor