



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

**Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development**

DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND
PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
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The Honorable Senator Natasha von Imhof
Co-Chair Senate Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 516
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator von Imhof:

You have requested our agency evaluate how the legislature could assist with any changes under AS 08.54 to ensure the Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB) has the tools to effectively discipline, suspend, or revoke a guide-outfitter license in the event of serious violations of wildlife, hunting, or guiding statutes or regulations.

Our team recommends the following potential statutory changes:

Sec. 08.54.605. ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSES. (a) Notwithstanding AS 08.54.610, 08.54.620, 08.54.630, 08.54.650, and 08.54.660, a person may not receive, **hold**, or renew a registered guide-outfitter license, master guide-outfitter license, class-A assistant guide license, assistant guide license, or transporter license if

- (1) the person has been convicted of
 - (A) a violation of a state or federal hunting, guiding, or transportation services statute or regulation for which
 - (i) the person was imprisoned for more than five days within the previous five years;
 - (ii) an unsuspended fine of more than \$2,000 was imposed in the previous 12 months;
 - (iii) an unsuspended fine of more than \$3,000 was imposed in the previous 36 months; or
 - (iv) an unsuspended fine of more than \$5,000 was imposed in the previous 60 months;
 - (B) a felony within the last five years; or
 - (C) a felony offense against the person under AS 11.41 within the last 10 years; or
- (2) the person's right to obtain, or exercise the privileges granted by, a hunting, guiding, outfitting, or transportation services license is suspended or revoked in this state or another state or in Canada.

Reason for recommendation: This change will provide the board with the authority to immediately suspend a license if a current licensee is convicted of a violation.

Sec. 08.54.610. REGISTERED GUIDE-OUTFITTER LICENSE.

(b) A master guide-outfitter license authorizes a registered guide-outfitter to use the title master guide-outfitter, but is for all other purposes under this chapter a registered guide-outfitter license. A natural person is entitled to receive a renewable master guide-outfitter license if the person

- (1) is, at the time of application for a master guide-outfitter license, licensed as a registered guide-outfitter under this section;
- (2) has been licensed in this state as a registered guide or a guide-outfitter, under former AS 08.54.010 - 08.54.240, former AS 08.54.300 - 08.54.590, or this chapter, for at least [12] 15 of the last [15] 20 years, including the year immediately preceding the year in which the person applies for a master guide-outfitter license;
- (3) submits a list to the department of at least [25] 45 clients for whom the person has personally provided guiding or outfitting services and the person receives a favorable evaluation from [10] 30 of the clients selected from the list by the department;
- (4) has not been the subject of board disciplinary action or convicted of a violation of any state or federal statute or regulation relating to hunting or to provision of big game hunting services or transportation services within the 15 years preceding the date of the application;** and
- [(4)] **(5) applies for a master guide-outfitter license on a form provided by the department and pays the application fee, if any.**
- (c) A person who holds a current master guide-outfitter license must continue to remain eligible under AS 08.54.610(b)(4); the board may revoke a master guide-outfitter license and issue a registered guide-outfitter license to a licensee who no longer qualifies under this subsection.**

Reason for recommendation: The title of “master guide-outfitter” indicates the licensee has the highest level of expertise in the industry. This recommendation is a reasonable increase in knowledge and experience level and requires a clear licensing record. Violations of relevant statutes and regulations by guiding professionals does not indicate mastery in the occupation.

Our evaluation team included BGCSB Chair Henry Tiffany, Chief Investigator Greg Francois, and myself. The BGCSB has not reviewed these recommendations and plans to do so at their next regular meeting April 2-4 in Anchorage. This is an open meeting, and these discussions will occur in view of the public and licensees.

Thank you for your interest augmenting the safety of the public and our state’s resources as regulated by the Big Game Commercial Services Board. We appreciate your interest in continuing the board through SB 43. If you require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Sara Chambers
Division Director

cc: The Honorable Senator David Wilson
Henry D. Tiffany IV, Chairman, Big Game Commercial Services Board
Fred Parady, Legislative Liaison
Greg Francois, Chief Investigator