ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Interim:
Senate District N
600 E. Railroad Avenue
Wasilla AK 99654
Phone: 907-376-7866
Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov

Session:
State Capitol, Room 121
Juneau AK 99807-1182
Phone: 907-465-3878
Toll-Free: 800-862-3878
Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov

Senator David Wilson

Sponsor Statement
SB 78 Nonresident Student Hunting, Fishing, Trapping License

Senate Bill 78 adds a new non-resident student hunting, fishing, and trapping license. Upon passage of this legislation, a non-resident student enrolled in classes part time, as determined by their school, can purchase a license at resident cost. This does not change any regulations or the cost of tags.

Research shows hunting and fishing have declined since the 1960s. As the percentage of the population that hunts, fishes, and traps declines, so does our conservation funding. Conservation funding by federal statutes (Pittman-Robertson Act, Dingell-Johnson Act, Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, etc.) is directly tied to excise taxes on things like ammunition, firearms, archery and fishing equipment. These taxes are then distributed to the states' fish and game departments for conservation and management efforts. To access these federal dollars, the states must match the funding, Alaska does so by utilizing the revenue from hunting and fishing licenses. The direct correlation between our hunters and our conservation ability cannot be overlooked. It is critical that we encourage younger generations to participate in these wonderful outdoor activities. While COVID saw an uptick in licensees due to indoor activity closures, we cannot rely on a pandemic to increase participation.

Though hunting and fishing may not be easy hobbies to pick up, an additional financial burden may make it even harder. Many younger students who might be interested in learning how to hunt and fish are also trying to pay for college life. Lowering the license cost non-resident students pay may encourage them to go hunting and fishing with their fellow residents.