

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 301(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/19/00

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the Chitina dip net fishing permit; and providing for an**
2 **effective date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 *** Section 1.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new
5 section to read:

6 **LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS, PURPOSE, AND INTENT.** (a) The legislature finds that

7 (1) the Copper River Railroad right-of-way has provided access to the Chitina
8 dip net fishery for nearly 40 years;

9 (2) the Chitina dip net fishery provides salmon for personal consumption to
10 more than 20,000 Alaskans each year;

11 (3) disputes over land ownership rights have created access problems in the
12 past; and

13 (4) agreements between the State of Alaska and the private landowners in the
14 Chitina dip net fishery area have enabled continuous use of the Copper River Railroad right-

1 of-way to provide access to the fishery since 1987.

2 (b) In approving an increase in the Chitina dip net fishing permit fee, the legislature
 3 recognizes the need to maintain access to the Chitina dip net fishery for more than 20,000
 4 Alaskans; however, the current agreement between the state and the private landowners expires
 5 December 31, 2000. It is the intent of the legislature that (1) the Department of Fish and
 6 Game enter into a subsequent agreement for access to the fishery by February 28, 2001, with
 7 the private landholders in the area that will last for three years; and (2) the permit fee is not
 8 to exceed \$25 during the term of the agreement. Also, during the term of that agreement, the
 9 Department of Fish and Game is to work with other local, state, and federal agencies to secure
 10 a long-term solution by a lease, land exchange, or other means. The Department of Fish and
 11 Game is to work with private landowners, the Department of Natural Resources, and the
 12 Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to identify the portion of the Copper River
 13 Railroad right-of-way associated with the Chitina dip net fishery, utilizing the most cost-
 14 efficient methodology available to carry out this intent, the costs of which should be paid from
 15 the revenues generated from the Chitina dip net fishing permit fee.

16 * **Sec. 2.** AS 16.05.340(a)(22) is amended to read:

17 (22) Chitina [PERSONAL USE SALMON] dip net fishing
 18 permit **25** [10]
 19 **A person who has received a permanent identification card issued under**
 20 **AS 16.05.400(b) may obtain a Chitina dip net fishing permit without charge.**
 21 **The members of the family of a person who has obtained a Chitina dip net fishing**
 22 **permit are not required to have a Chitina dip net fishing permit while they are**
 23 **engaged in dip net fishing at Chitina if they are engaged in fishing in the presence**
 24 **of the person and the person has the Chitina dip net fishing permit in the**
 25 **person's physical possession. In this paragraph, "family" means persons who are**
 26 **related by blood, marriage, or adoption and who live in the same household on**
 27 **a permanent basis. The legislature may appropriate the receipts from the sale of**
 28 **the permit to the fish and game fund.**

29 * **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).