

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

2018

Source
CSHCR 23(RES)

Legislative
Resolve No.
31



Supporting enhanced efforts to protect wildlife and domestic animals in the state from infectious diseases, foreign pathogens, and nonendemic parasites.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the state contains some of the most productive and unique ecosystems on the planet; and

WHEREAS the livestock and wildlife resources of the state hold intrinsic value to the state, including economic value reaching into the billions of dollars annually; and

WHEREAS the state's wildlife is enjoyed by myriad user groups for hunting, trapping, viewing, and general outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature has the responsibility under the Constitution of the State of Alaska to manage its natural resources, including wildlife, for the benefit of all the people of the state; and

WHEREAS the state subscribes to science-based livestock and wildlife management; and

WHEREAS the state's wildlife managers are tasked with providing for a sustained yield harvest; and

WHEREAS the wildlife of the state is under continuous and increasing threat from foreign pathogens, infectious diseases, and nonendemic parasites; and

WHEREAS pathogen and disease transmission to domestic animals and wildlife in other areas of North America has resulted in catastrophic die-offs and extirpation of distinct wild populations; and

WHEREAS similar pathogen and disease transmission to domestic animals has resulted in costly and problematic die-offs; and

WHEREAS screening, reporting, and mitigation are proven and widely used tools for preventing the import and transmission of disease pathogens to wild populations as well as domestic animals;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages agencies to gather information, perform tests, and collect data on infectious diseases, foreign pathogens, and nonendemic parasites in the state to make science-based management decisions to support enhanced efforts to protect the state's wildlife and domestic animals from infectious diseases, foreign pathogens, and nonendemic parasites; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the Department of Fish and Game, Department of Natural Resources, and Department of Environmental Conservation, including the office of the state veterinarian, to take necessary and prudent measures to detect and identify the presence of infectious diseases, foreign pathogens, and nonendemic parasites that threaten wildlife and domestic animals in the state and to engage in actions to prevent the spread of those diseases and pathogens to at-risk wildlife and domestic animals.