

Representative Rebecca Himschoot

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Session

Alaska State Capitol
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-3732
(888) 461-3732
Rep.Himschoot@akleg.gov



Interim

201 Katlian Street Ste 103
PO Box 844
Sitka, AK 99835
(907) 747-4665
(877) 747-6276
Rep.Himschoot@akleg.gov

To: Senator Matt Claman, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Representative Rebecca Himschoot

Date: February 23, 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Himschoot".

RE: Background Information in Follow-up to the HB 93 Hearing in Senate Judiciary Committee on February 16, 2026

The purpose of this memo is to answer Senator Tobin's question regarding whether interns qualify for the allowable absence granted to Alaska congressional delegation staff and to provide additional background information related to other questions Senate Judiciary Committee members asked during the February 16, 2026, hearing on HB 93. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Thatcher Brouwer with any further questions.

1. Do interns qualify for the allowable absence granted for individuals "serving on the staff of a member from this state of the United States Congress;" (AS 43.23.008(a)(10))?

"Staff" and "intern" are not defined in PFD statutes or regulations. Instead, the PFD division has the congressional delegation fill out a form and list the Alaska residents who served on the member's staff during the filing year. The form does not distinguish between "staff" and "intern." The division uses the information provided by the congressional delegation to determine who qualifies for an allowable absence.

Summary of Information provided by Aimee Bushnell, Legislative Liaison, Alaska Department of Revenue in an email dated 2.17.26

2. Additional information on the permanent identification cards for hunting, trapping or sport fishing.

AS 16.05.400(b) requires the commissioner to issue a free permanent hunting, trapping or sport fishing identification card (PID) to Alaska seniors 60 or older, and disabled veterans who meet certain requirements, so long as the individuals complete the required application and meet the Fish and Game residency definition under AS 16.05.415 and AS 16.05.940.

Once issued, a person holding a PID must maintain their residency under AS 16.05.415 and AS 16.05.940 to remain eligible to use the license, but there is no requirement to renew the permanent license. If at any time a PID license holder no longer meets the resident requirements for purpose of sport fishing, hunting or trapping their card is immediately void. This current requirement would also apply under HB 93, and the card holder would need to meet the updated residency requirements in the bill.

ADF&G does not have a way of tracking whether individuals holding a permanent license maintain a permanent residence in Alaska or how many PIDs are in use. This is in part because ADF&G has no mechanism for renewal or recertification once issued. Under current law, the Department of Law has advised that ADF&G cannot require a card holder to renew since the PIDs are permanent.

Summary of information provided by Joe Felkl, Legislative Liaison, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, in an email dated 3.25.25.

3. Common charges in statute and regulation related to a violation of the resident hunting, trapping or sport fishing license standards.

The charges filed depend on the individual case and may be charged as a bail forfeiture offense (violation) or as a misdemeanor.

Common Applicable Statutes and Regulations:

- **AS 16.05.330(a)(1)–(2)** – Fishing or hunting without a valid license
Violation (bail forfeiture offense) – \$250 bail
- **AS 16.05.420(b)** – Knowingly making a false statement on a license application
Class A misdemeanor
- **AS 16.05.407(a)** – Nonresident taking game without a required guide
Class A misdemeanor
- **AS 11.56.210(a)(2)** – Unsworn falsification
Class A misdemeanor
- **5 AAC 92.140(a)** – Unlawful possession or transportation of game
Class A misdemeanor

Note: A Class A misdemeanor may result in a penalty of up to \$20K fine, 10-years of probation, and 1-year in jail.

Summary of information provided by Laurel Shoop, Legislative Liaison, Alaska Department of Public Safety, in an email dated 2.21.26.