



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

Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Kevin Taylor, Chair

7221 Setter Drive
Anchorage, AK 99502
907-243-1983

February 11, 2026

**RE: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee
Partial Support for HB 93 – Residency Requirements for Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing
Licenses**

Dear Senators and Representatives,

The Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee (AC) writes to express our partial and strong support for House Bill 93, which seeks to clarify and strengthen the residency requirements for obtaining Alaska Resident hunting, trapping, and sport fishing licenses.

At the outset, we want to remind you that any infringement on an Alaska resident's right to hunt, trap and/or fish implicates Article VIII, Sections 3, 15, and 17 of the Alaska Constitution and the Alaska Supreme Court's case law construing these provisions. Otherwise known as the equal access clauses, these provisions require the Alaska Legislature to ensure that our State's fish and wildlife is reserved to all Alaskans for their common use and that laws regulating the use of fish and wildlife shall apply equally to all persons similarly situated. This means that Alaska residents have constitutional rights with respect to the use of fish and wildlife in Alaska and that any law infringing on this right is required to be narrowly tailored to accomplish its legislative purpose without overly infringing on the rights of Alaska residents to hunt, trap, and/or fish in Alaska. We members of the AC fully and passionately support these rights of Alaskans to have equal access to our fish and wildlife under the Alaska Constitution.

As a committee representing one of the largest concentrations of Alaska residents in the State, we believe this legislation is a necessary step in protecting Alaska's fish and wildlife resources for those who truly live here. Current law contains a loophole that allows individuals who spend minimal time in the state—sometimes as little as a few weeks—to claim residency simply by maintaining a "domicile." This has led to increased pressure on our fish and wildlife and has created an uneven playing field for year-round Alaskans.

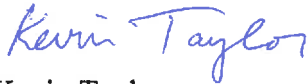
However, while we support the spirit of this legislation, we have concerns about this legislation resulting in unintended and unconstitutional consequences for some Anchorage and Alaska residents who could lose their resident hunter and fisher status should this bill be adopted into law as written. Key Alaskans who could be impacted by this bill include pilots and wildland firefighters. One member of our AC provided an example of a pilot who does not claim residency in any other state, has a home in Anchorage, children enrolled in and attending Anchorage schools, and owns a remote hunting cabin, but has a work schedule that is 4 days on, 3 days off flying out of the state. In this person's case, even though he has a remote hunting cabin and his entire nuclear family is entitled to receive the Permanent Fund Dividend, this person would not be considered an Alaska Resident hunter, trapper, or fisher within the requirements set out in HB 93. In this person's and other cases, work may take residents out of the state for more than 180 days and would thus disqualify them for resident hunting and fishing licenses. Thus, to ensure that this legislation protects the Article VIII rights of Alaska residents, we suggest that there be an exemption for pilots, traveling nurses, wildland firefighters, mariners, long-haul truckers,

Department of Defense civilians and contractors, and other professions who have work schedules that take them out of the State of Alaska for more than 180 days each year, disqualifying them for receipt of the Permanent Fund Dividend, but who are Alaska residents in every other way respect both personally and legally because their home is located in Alaska.

At our February 2026 Advisory Committee meeting, we discussed the Bill and voted to submit this letter of support, contingent upon the above concerns being considered and added by the Alaska Legislature. We recognize the importance of the existing exemptions included for military service members, students, and those receiving medical care outside the state. We seek that this list be expanded slightly to include other professions whose work schedules may disqualify them for hunting and fishing residency. The Anchorage AC believes that being a "resident" should mean more than just owning property or intending to return; it should reflect a commitment to living in and supporting this great state. We seek to ensure that our wildlife management remains sustainable and fair for all Alaskans.

Please let us know if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,



Kevin Taylor
Chairperson, Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee
(907) 244-7437
kevint@alaska.net