

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPRESENTATIVE ANDY JOSEPHSON

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 10, 2026
From: Representative Andy Josephson
To: Representative Robyn Frier, Co-chair
Representative Maxine Dibert, Co-chair
House Resources Committee
RE: HB 321 Version H amendments

Attached to this memo is version 34-LS1257\H of House Bill 321 “Fish and Game Wildlife Refuges”. I respectfully request the committee consider adopting this bill version as a committee substitute. Attached is a summary of changes which primarily include minor edits of terms, clarification of intent, and the addition of one expanded refuge boundary. These changes should address several concerns that were expressed by committee members at our first hearing on March 4, 2026 when we introduced this bill to the committee.

Please contact me or my staff, Joe Meehan, at 907.465.8108 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.

Summary of changes to HB321
Version 34-LS1257\H

1. Sec. 4 changes “Katmai area” to “Kamishak Bay area” to clarify the location of referenced lands, and it deletes references to federal law and federal land as all affected lands are state-owned.
2. Sec. 6 adds “natural habitats” to subsection (a) to clarify the primary purpose statement. It also deletes “shall” and inserts “may” to subsection (b) to allow the department to dictate when regulation adoption is appropriate.
3. Sec. 7 amends subsection (a) to clarify that regulations adopted to prohibit the discharge of firearms do not apply to legal hunting, trapping, or fishing. It also amends subsection (b) to clarify that regulations adopted to restrict public access apply only to limited areas to protect public health and safety, or for the safe operation of a facility (e.g. Rabbit Creek Shooting Park in the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge).
4. Sec. 98 expands the boundary of the Homer Airport Critical Habitat Area (renamed the Beluga Wetlands Wildlife Refuge) by adding state-owned lands or lands acquired in the future in subsections (a)(1), (a)(4), and (a)(6) – (a)(9).
5. Sec. 99 adds a provision to subsection (b) to clarify which parcels of land are subject to conditions in subsection (b).
6. Sec. 100 adds a provision to subsection (c) to clarify which parcels are subject to conditions in subsection (c).
7. New Sec. 102 added to clarify which lands are subject to conditions of the cited statute.
8. Sec. 103 (version H) replicates Sec. 102 (version N).
9. New Sec. 104 amends statute to add new subsection (h) addressing municipal lands encompassed in the expanded refuge boundary.
10. Sec. 105 (version H) replicates Sec. 103 (version N).
11. Sec. 106 (version H) replicates Sec. 104 (version N).
12. Sec. 107 (version H) replicates Sec. 105 (version N).
13. Sec. 108 (version H) replicates Sec. 106 (version N).
14. Sec. 109 (version H) replicates Sec. 107 (version N).
15. Sec. 110 (version H) replicates Sec. 108 (version N).
16. Sec. 111 (version H) replicates Sec. 109 (version N).
17. Sec. 112 (version H) replicates Sec. 110 (version N).
18. Sec. 113 (version H) replicates Sec. 111 (version N).
19. Sec. 114 (version H) replicates Sec. 112 (version N).
20. Sec. 115 (version H) replicates Sec. 113 (version N).
21. Sec. 116 (version H) replicates Sec. 114 (version N).
22. Sec. 117 (version H) replicates Sec. 115 (version N).