

# Representative Rebecca Himschoot

Angoon, Craig, Edna Bay, Elfin Cove, Hollis, Hoonah, Hydaburg, Kake, Kasaan, Klawock, Kupreanof, Naukati, Pelican, Petersburg, Port Alexander, Point Baker, Port Protection, Sitka, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay & Yakutat

## *Session*

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## *Interim*

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## HOUSE BILL 93

“An Act changing the residency requirements for hunting, trapping, and sport fishing privileges; and providing for an effective date.”

### SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Bill 93 updates the requirements for resident sport fishing, hunting and trapping licenses with the goal of ensuring resident license holders are full-time residents of the State of Alaska. With the pressure on our finite fish and game resources, this legislation is needed to strengthen our residency requirements for the purpose of obtaining a sport fishing, hunting or trapping license.

Under existing law, you can qualify for a resident license and still be indefinitely absent if you meet the low threshold of intending to remain in Alaska, maintaining a domicile in Alaska, and not establishing residency elsewhere. Currently, individuals who only spend a few months of the year in Alaska, but still meet the low bar of residency for licensing purposes, can enjoy our generous resident bag and possession limits as well as reduced license and tag fees.

House Bill 93 will close this loophole by closely aligning the requirements for an individual to receive a resident hunting, trapping, or sport fishing license with the residency requirements to receive a permanent fund dividend (PFD). With this legislation the allowable absences will be the same as they currently are for an individual to receive a PFD, but there is no requirement that you receive dividend or that you meet all the PFD qualification requirements. While the requirements will not be exactly the same as they are to receive a PFD, this bill strengthens the residency requirements for sport fishing, hunting and trapping licenses and reduces the pressure on our fish and game resources by individuals who only spend a few months of the year in the state.

Importantly, this bill does not change the bag and possession limits for out-of-state hunters or fishermen who come to Alaska to participate in the state’s well-managed hunts and fisheries. Under this legislation, visitors will still be able to obtain non-resident permits without additional restrictions. In addition, the important guided hunting and fishing industries will not be impacted by this bill.

House Bill 93 helps guarantee the individuals who qualify for resident hunting, trapping or sport fishing licenses are in fact year-round residents of Alaska who deserve the privileges of increased bag limits and reduced license costs. This in turn will preserve the privileges of a resident license for year-round residents of Alaska who invest in their communities in all seasons and depend most on our fish and game resources to put food on the table.

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