

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES JOSEPHSON, Drummond

Introduced: 2/21/18

Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 **WHEREAS** the wildlife of the state is under continuous and increasing threat from

1 foreign pathogens, infectious diseases, and nonendemic parasites; and

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

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

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

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports enhanced efforts to
10 protect the state's wildlife from infectious diseases, foreign pathogens, and nonendemic
11 parasites; and be it

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