

SENATE BILL NO. 171

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR BJORKMAN

REPRESENTATIVE Himschoot

Introduced: 1/16/24

Referred: Resources, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act changing the residency requirements for sport fishing, hunting, and trapping**
2 **privileges; and providing for an effective date."**

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

4 * **Section 1.** AS 16.05.400 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5 (d) A person who is issued a permanent identification card under this section
6 may sport fish, hunt, or trap only if the person continues to meet the residency
7 requirements of AS 16.05.415.

8 * **Sec. 2.** AS 16.05.415(a) is amended to read:

9 (a) In AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430, a person, except as provided in (c) - (f) of
10 this section, is a resident if the person

11 (1) is physically present in the state with the intent to remain in the
12 state indefinitely and to make a home in the state;

13 (2) has maintained the person's domicile in the state for the 12
14 consecutive months immediately preceding the application for a license;

(3) **has been physically present in the state at all times during the 12 consecutive months under (2) of this subsection or, if absent, was absent only as allowed in AS 43.23.008;**

(4) is not claiming residency in another state, territory, or country; and

(5) [(4)] is not obtaining benefits under a claim of residency in another state, territory, or country.

* Sec. 3. AS 16.05.415(e) is amended to read:

(e) A person who is an alien is a resident for the purposes of AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430 if the person

(1) is physically present in the state with the intent to remain in the state indefinitely and to make a home in the state;

(2) has maintained the person's domicile in the state for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the application for a license;

(3) **has been physically present in the state at all times during the 12 consecutive months under (2) of this subsection or, if absent, was absent only as allowed in AS 43.23.008;**

(4) is not claiming residency in another state, territory, or country; and

(5) [(4)] is not obtaining benefits under a claim of residency in another state, territory, or country.

* Sec. 4. AS 16.05.415 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(j) The commissioner shall adopt regulations under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) for determining the eligibility of an individual for licensure as a resident under this section. The commissioner may require an individual to provide proof of eligibility, and the commissioner may use other information available from other state departments or agencies to determine the eligibility of an individual. The commissioner shall consider all relevant circumstances in determining the eligibility of an individual.

* Sec. 5. The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

TRANSITION: REGULATIONS. The Department of Fish and Game may adopt regulations necessary to implement the changes made by this Act. The regulations take effect

1 under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not before the effective date of the
2 relevant provision of this Act implemented by the regulation.

3 * **Sec. 6.** Section 5 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

4 * **Sec. 7.** Except as provided in sec. 6 of this Act, this Act takes effect January 1, 2025.