

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE ANDY JOSEPHSON

Summary of Changes

HB 105 – Denali Wolf Buffer Zone

The original version of this bill created the “Gordon Haber Denali Wolf Special Management Area” within Title 41 (Public Resources), Chapter 21 (Parks and Recreational Facilities). Provisions under this section are administered by the Department of Natural Resources, which has a general mandate to manage natural resources *exclusive of wildlife*.

DNR indicated that, since it did not have existing expertise in wildlife management, the original bill could incur a substantial department expense.

The Department of Fish and Game suggested several possibilities for prohibiting wolf hunting and trapping around Denali, including establishing a refuge, sanctuary or critical habitat area. But the most cost effective approach is simply to close it to taking wolves.

The purposes of the bill remain unchanged: to protect wolves for future generations of Alaskan residents and visitors, and to bolster the economy of the state’s most important tourism asset through statistically valuable wolf sightings.