

Senate Bill 149:

"An Act providing a tax credit for certain contributions to a qualified dog mushing corporation."

Support Alaska's Mushing Sport Heritage Act

Why it's needed:

Senator Joe Thomas introduced Senate Bill 149, the *Support Alaska's Mushing Sport Heritage Act* (SAMSHA) to create a stronger financial base of support for dog mushing, Alaska's Official State Sport. The goal of SAMSHA is to encourage more private sector support for the numerous dog mushing races organized and held across Alaska every year. Designed to foster strong financial backing from local businesses and other small to mid-range donors, SAMSHA will help create a stronger economic foundation for mushing events. SAMSHA will also foster Alaska's winter tourism industry; promote local businesses who support uniquely Alaskan events and help diversify Alaska's economy.

How it works:

Most dog mushing races in Alaska are organized as non-profit organizations. Any non-profit organization which has successfully staged a dog mushing race with a purse of at least \$5,000 within the previous two years can partner with the State of Alaska to issue tax credits to eligible donors.

Dog Mushing Non-Profits with an Annual Budget of:

Less than \$500,000 receive \$12,500 in credits
\$500,000 to \$1,000,000 receive \$25,000 in credits
More than \$1,000,000 receive \$50,000 in credits

Non-profit races will have the opportunity to solicit cash donations from businesses throughout the year to help cover operating and purse expenditures. By limiting the number of tax credits available, this program will help dog mushing organizations by encouraging earlier donations. Bringing in more operating funds earlier in the year will allow dog mushing races to operate more efficiently.

Donation amount:	Credit available:
\$2,000-5,000.....	50% of the donated amount
\$5,001-\$10,000.....	\$2,500 plus 33% of the donated amount above \$5,000
\$10,001-\$25,000.....	\$4,150 plus 25% of the donated amount above \$10,000
Greater than \$25,000.....	\$7,900 total tax credit

Under SAMSHA, a business that currently donates just \$2,000 can increase that donation to \$5,000 for an additional \$500 after the \$2,500 tax credit from the state!

What you can do to help:

With only 90 days in the legislative session to pass Senate Bill 149, Senator Thomas will need your help!

Please write a letter, send an email, OR sign the petition!

Senator Joe Thomas
State Capitol Building Room 514
Juneau, AK 99801

OR

Sen.Joe.Thomas@legis.state.ak.us

For more information on Senate Bill 148, please contact Grier Hopkins at 1-800-336-7383 or email him at grier.hopkins@legis.state.ak.us.