

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATOR DONALD C. OLSON



ALASKA  
STATE CAPITOL  
ROOM 514  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182

(907) 465-3707  
FAX (907) 465-4821

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** March 29, 2010

**TO:** Representative Craig Johnson, Co-Chairman  
~~Representative Mark Neuman, Co-Chairman~~  
House Resources Committee

**FROM:** Senator Donald Olson *D.O.*  
Senate District T

**SUBJ:** Request for Hearing – CSSB 144 (FIN)

I would like to request your consideration for scheduling a committee hearing for this bill, which would allow a second hunting permit for residents and subsistence hunters to take musk oxen. It would not apply to non-resident hunters.

Attached are: Both bill versions, a sponsor statement / sectional analysis, a ZERO fiscal note, and a poster on the status of musk oxen in Alaska. We have discovered no opposition to this bill.

The Committee Substitute made two single-word insertions, to address a drafting error.

If there are any questions, contact Tim Benintendi of my office at 465-4989. Thank you.

**CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 144(FIN)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/22/10

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATOR OLSON

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to hunting permits and tag fees for musk oxen."

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

3 \* **Section 1.** AS 16.05.340(a)(16) is amended to read:

4 (16) Resident big game tags

5 (A) Bear, brown or grizzly, each ..... 25

6 The Board of Game may, by regulation effective for not more than one year,  
7 eliminate the resident brown or grizzly bear tag and fee for all or a portion of a  
8 game management unit.

9 (B) Musk oxen, each ..... 500

10 However, the Board of Game may by regulation reduce or eliminate the [FEE  
11 FOR A] resident big game tag **and fee** for musk oxen for **all or a portion of a**  
12 **game management unit** [AN OPEN SEASON].

13 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 16.05.346(a) is amended to read:

14 (a) If the Board of Game establishes an open season for musk oxen and has  
15 not reduced or eliminated the \$500 resident tag **and** fee under AS 16.05.340(a)(16),

1 the department shall conduct a drawing for permits to take the musk oxen. If the Board  
2 of Game establishes an open season for musk oxen for which the Board of Game has  
3 reduced or eliminated the resident tag and fee, the department shall issue permits to  
4 take the musk oxen in the order in which applications are received by the department.  
5 [A PERSON IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR MORE THAN ONE MUSK OXEN PERMIT  
6 A YEAR.] The department may not charge a resident a fee for an application for a  
7 musk oxen permit for an open season in which the Board of Game has reduced or  
8 eliminated the resident tag and fee under AS 16.05.340(a)(16). In all other cases, the  
9 application fee for a musk oxen permit is \$10.

SENATE BILL NO. 144

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR OLSON

Introduced: 3/9/09

Referred: Resources, Finance

A BILL

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# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bill Version: SB144  
 () Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier (file name): SB144-DFG-DAS-03-05-10  
 Title: An Act relating to hunting permits and tag fees for musk oxen  
 Sponsor: Senator Olson  
 Requester: Senate Resources  
 Dept. Affected: ADF&G  
 RDU: Administration and Support  
 Component: Administrative Services  
 Component Number: 479

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2011	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2010) cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITIONS**

Full-time	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Part-time	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Temporary	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

No fiscal impact to Department of Fish and Game

Prepared by: Jeff Hoover, Deputy Director  
 Division: Administrative Services  
 Approved by: Tom Lawson, Director of Administrative Services  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Phone: 907-465-6077  
 Date/Time: 3/5/10 12:00 PM  
 Date: 3/5/2010

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATOR DONALD C. OLSON



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FAX (907) 465-4821

## **CSSB 144 (FIN) – Musk Oxen Permits & Tags**

Version 26-LS0666/E, March 22, 2010

STAFF: Tim Benintendi, 465-4989

### **SPONSOR STATEMENT and SECTIONAL ANALYSIS**

#### **SPONSOR STATEMENT:**

There are four Game Management Units in which musk oxen are found in Alaska; Unit 18 (Nunivak and Nelson Islands), Units 22 and 23 (Seward Peninsula and Northwest), and Unit 26 (Northeast). The musk oxen population in Alaska is currently estimated to be 4,400 animals, and annually, between 325 and 350 animals are available for harvest.

The primary objective of SB 144 is to allow issuance of a second permit for a musk ox hunt in a second Game Management Unit or another hunt area within a unit, for resident hunters and subsistence hunters only; no out-of-state hunters qualify. If a harvester does not take an animal under the first permit, this would double the chance a hunter has to harvest the bag limit of one animal, either a bull or a cow. It would not allow for the taking of two animals.

Current statute provides for a limit of one musk ox permit for each hunter per calendar year. Musk oxen are the only game animals in the Arctic to which the one-permit restriction still applies. Under SB 144, the department could issue subsistence permits beyond a calendar year basis, to accommodate a season which straddles two calendar years (Example: a season which runs from August 1<sup>st</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup>), because a "year" under this bill, is changed from a calendar year to a regulatory year, which is July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Wildlife biologists and regulators within the Department of Fish and Game have determined that the health and size of the state's herd is well past the threshold for expanding opportunities for Alaskan hunters. State biologists

estimate that a minimal number of additional permits would be issued under the provisions of this bill, and perhaps 25 more animals would be harvested. If passed this legislative session, these new provisions would be in place for seasons beginning in August of this year.

SB 144 would authorize the Board of Game to reduce or eliminate subsistence tag and fee requirements at its discretion.

SB 144 carries a ZERO fiscal note, and has the support of the department. Support from the hunting community in Northwest Alaska includes the Northern and Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committees, and the Seward Peninsula Musk Ox Cooperators' Group. We have discovered no opposition to this bill.

### **SECTIONAL ANALYSIS:**

**SECTION 1:** Amends AS 16.05.340(a)(16) to allow the Board of Game to reduce or eliminate the fee, as well as the tag requirements, for a musk oxen hunt, and makes it applicable to all or a portion of a game management unit. Applying this to an open season has been eliminated. The objective is to have the statute for musk oxen read the same as for other game.

**SECTION 2:** Amends AS 16.05.346(a) by providing that the department shall issue permits to take musk oxen once the Board of Game has reduced or eliminated requirements for a resident tag and fee. This statute is further amended by providing that a resident may not be charged a fee for an application for a musk oxen permit under these circumstances.

### **COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:**

The Senate Finance Committee Substitute addresses a drafting error. It inserts the word "**and**" between the words "tag" and "fee" in two places, one on page 1, line 15, and the second on page 2, line 8.