

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senator Joe Paskvan

Chair, Labor and Commerce
Vice Chair, Health and Social Services
Member, Transportation
Member, State Affairs
Member, Joint Armed Services

*Senate District E
Fairbanks and Fort Wainwright*



State Capitol Building, Room 7
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Phone (907) 465-3709
Fax (907) 465-4714
sen.joe.paskvan@legis.state.ak.us
<http://paskvan.aksenate.org/>

Memo

To: Senator Tom Wagoner, Co-Chair of Senate Resources Committee

From: Senator Joe Paskvan, Co-Chair of Senate Resources Committee 

Re: Hearing request for Senate Bill 207: Resident Hunt and Sport Fish License Exemption

I respectfully request that Senate Bill 207, "An Act relating to exemptions for a resident hunting and sport fishing license and to taking fish and game by proxy for a person with mental or physical disabilities," be scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Resources Committee.

Senate Bill 207 seeks to preserve and improve access for a population who may experience difficulties securing the opportunity to experience Alaska's great outdoors. Specifically, SB 207 provides for free resident hunting and fishing licenses for individuals who have a mental or physical disability. The bill further allows for mentally disabled persons to have a proxy hunt or fish in their stead.

Many Alaskans, who have a significant physical or mental disability, already receive State or Federal services or financial assistance and it is estimated that individuals with disabilities are twice as likely to live in poverty as those without disabilities. Alaskans with physical and mental disabilities already face higher logistical and financial hurdles to participating in hunting and fishing activities. Senate Bill 207 is one step towards providing one less hurdle for Alaskans with disabilities to be able to participate in these traditional and enriching activities.

Please feel free to contact myself or my staff, Anna Sorensen, at 465-3709 or AnnaMarie_Sorensen@legis.state.ak.us with any questions you may have.

Thank you for your consideration.