

SENATE BILL 79 – OVERVIEW

1. Establishes the Sport Fishing Guide Services Board, membership and initial appointments by the Governor
2. Establishes licensing criteria for:
 - a. Sport Fishing Guide-Outfitter,
 - b. Sport Fishing Outfitter,
 - c. Sport Fishing Assistant Guide, and
 - d. Sport Fishing Transporter
3. Provides for discipline of a sport fishing guide-outfitter, outfitter, assistant guide and transporter for committing unlawful acts
4. Provides for reporting requirements and establishes an electronic system for required forms, records and reports
5. Directs DCCED to establish fees for each type of license as well as the application itself and the individual guide use area registration
6. Amends AS 16.05.395 (ADF&G) vessel registration provision to move it to the new AS 08.57 and provides for DCCED and the new board to adopt regulations
7. The required records collected under AS 08.57 will be confidential but will be shared with the newly established board to the extent necessary to perform duties necessary for licensing and regulation of licensing activities

BOARD MAKE-UP

1. Under DCCED
2. Appointed by the Governor
3. Nine members:
 - a. five who are currently licensed guide-outfitters or outfitters, at least three of whom are currently licensed guide-outfitters → all five must include both salt water and fresh water
 - b. one member who is currently licensed sport fishing transporter
 - c. one member of the Board of Fisheries
 - d. two public members who:
 - i. are familiar with Alaska sport fishing industry
 - ii. do not hold, or have not held, a license issued under this chapter or a commercial fishing license issued under Title 16
 - iii. are familiar with concerns of private landowners and access issues related to sport fishing
4. Shall represent a reasonable geographic balance amongst regions of Alaska
5. Staggered three-year terms
6. Receive per diem and travel expenses related to serving on the board

BOARD DUTIES

1. Prepare and grade written qualification examination for guide-outfitter and outfitter licenses, and authorize licenses for those who qualify
2. Prepare and grade a written certification examination for each guide use area in which the guide-outfitter or outfitter intend to operate, and certify those who qualify
3. Prepare and grade an electronic version of both examinations
4. Impose disciplinary sanctions on licensees
5. Require applicants to attest that they are eligible to receive a license (not revoked)
6. Disseminate information regarding examinations and other qualifications
7. Adopt regulations
8. Administer examinations for guide-outfitters and guides at least twice a year
9. Meet at least twice annually
10. Report to the governor and legislature on industry economic impact and make recommendations
11. Make an annual report to the governor and notify the legislature
12. Maintain confidentiality of information collected by ADF&G and provided to the board, unless the information is being used in a proceeding against a licensee
13. Adopt regulations to establish a code of ethics, establish guide use areas, establish the maximum number of licensees per guide use area if it's determined to be necessary for resource conservation and economic stability, and establish a guide concession program