

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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North to the Future

**Senator Cathy Giessel**  
Senate District N

## **SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR SENATE BILL 68**

SB 68 is the beginning of a statewide conversation regarding antlerless moose hunts and the responsibilities of the Department of Fish and Game, the Board of Game and local Advisory Councils in regulating these hunts. There have been ongoing concerns regarding the use of antlerless moose hunts and the philosophy and science behind this management tool.

Antlerless moose hunts benefit Alaskans and enhance public safety. SB 68 assures Alaskans are not disenfranchised from Board of Game approved hunting opportunities provided through antlerless moose hunts. Currently, when a person applies for an antlerless moose hunt, the hunt can be cancelled after applications and fees have been accepted. This bill prohibits a closure of an antlerless moose hunt by a local Advisory Committee once applications have been accepted by the Department of Fish and Game but would still allow emergency closures by the commissioner or designee of the Department of Fish and Game. This results in more Alaskans being able to hunt and put moose meat on the table. SB 68 also provides for public safety by supporting antlerless hunts in areas experiencing increased moose and vehicle collisions and unexpected moose encounters with the public in local recreational areas.

SB 68 removes the yearly requirement by local Advisory Committees and the Board of Game to approve antlerless moose hunts and the approval of the yearly elimination of the resident brown bear tag fee, by placing both these approvals on the Board of Game meeting cycle which occurs every three years. SB 68 retains the right of local Advisory Committees to approve these hunts, but limits this approval to regularly scheduled Board of Game meetings for the area in which the hunts occur.

I invite everyone to join in the conversation to make this needed change to assure Alaskans are not disenfranchised from hunting opportunities and that by doing so we continue to provide safe roadways and recreational areas for our residents.

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