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Bullard  
3/25/15

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 41(FIN)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered:  
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES TILTON AND MUÑOZ

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

"An Act relating to sport fishing services, sport fishing operators, and sport fishing guides; and providing for an effective date."

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

\* **Section 1.** AS 16.05.340(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(27) Fishing services licenses

(A) Sport fishing operator license ..... 200

(B) Sport fishing guide license ..... 100

(C) Sport fishing operator and sport fishing guide combined  
license ..... 200.

\* **Sec. 2.** AS 16.05.395 is amended to read:

**Sec. 16.05.395. Sport fishing vessel registration.** A [FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2005 AND SUBSEQUENT CALENDAR YEARS, A] person may not use a vessel to provide sport fishing services under AS 16.40.261 - 16.40.300 [AS 16.40.260 - 16.40.299] unless the vessel is registered with the department and proof of

1 registration is attached to and clearly visible on the vessel while the vessel is used to  
2 provide sport fishing services. The department shall register vessels used to provide  
3 sport fishing services, and provide proof of registration, without charge. The  
4 department may adopt regulations as the department finds necessary to implement this  
5 section.

6 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 16.05.395, as amended by sec. 2 of this Act, is amended to read:

7 **Sec. 16.05.395. Sport fishing vessel registration.** A person may not use a  
8 vessel to provide sport fishing services [UNDER AS 16.40.261 - 16.40.300] unless the  
9 vessel is registered with the department and proof of registration is attached to and  
10 clearly visible on the vessel while the vessel is used to provide sport fishing services.  
11 The department shall register vessels used to provide sport fishing services, and  
12 provide proof of registration, without charge. The department may adopt regulations  
13 as the department finds necessary to implement this section.

14 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 16.40 is amended by adding new sections to read:

15 **Sec. 16.40.261. Sport fishing operator license.** (a) The department shall issue  
16 an annual sport fishing operator license to a person who

17 (1) holds a current business license under AS 43.70 to provide services  
18 to sport fishermen;

19 (2) presents proof satisfactory to the department of a general liability  
20 insurance policy or marine protection and indemnity insurance policy, covering the  
21 services provided by the person and the person's employees to sport fishermen, that  
22 provides coverage of at least \$100,000 for each incident, and \$300,000 for all  
23 incidents in a year;

24 (3) pays the license fee prescribed by AS 16.05.340(a); and

25 (4) satisfies all additional requirements adopted in regulation by the  
26 Board of Fisheries.

27 (b) A person may not provide sport fishing services unless the person holds a  
28 current sport fishing operator license and has current insurance coverage as required in  
29 (a)(2) of this section.

30 (c) A person who holds a current sport fishing operator license may contract to  
31 provide sport fishing guide services to a sport fisherman through an employee who

holds a current sport fishing guide license under AS 16.40.271.

(d) A person who holds a current sport fishing operator license may not directly provide sport fishing guide services to a sport fisherman unless the person also holds a current sport fishing guide license under AS 16.40.271(b).

(e) A person who holds a sport fishing operator license may not aid in the commission of a violation of AS 16.05 - AS 16.40 or a regulation adopted under AS 16.05 - AS 16.40, including regulations relating to the proper method to release fish, by a sport fishing guide who is employed by the person or by a sport fisherman who is a client of the person.

**Sec. 16.40.271. Sport fishing guide license.** (a) A natural person may obtain an annual sport fishing guide license if the person

(1) is a citizen of the United States, Canada, or Mexico, or is a resident alien;

(2) is certified in first aid by the American Red Cross or a similar organization;

(3) holds a license to carry passengers for hire issued by the United States Coast Guard if the person operates a vessel in the provision of sport fishing guide services and the license is required by the United States Coast Guard for the area in which the fishing guide provides fishing guide services;

(4) holds a current sport fishing license from the state;

(5) pays the license fee prescribed by AS 16.05.340(a); and

(6) satisfies all additional requirements adopted in regulation by the Board of Fisheries.

(b) A natural person may obtain an annual sport fishing operator and sport fishing guide combined license if the person satisfies the requirements for a sport fishing operator license under AS 16.40.261 and for a sport fishing guide license under this section and pays the license fee prescribed by AS 16.05.340(a).

(c) A person may not provide sport fishing guide services unless the person

(1) holds a current sport fishing guide license; and

(2) holds a current sport fishing operator license or is an employee of a person who holds a current sport fishing operator license.

(d) A sport fishing guide may provide sport fishing guide services only to persons who have engaged the services of the sport fishing operator by whom the sport fishing guide is employed. A sport fishing guide may not contract directly with a person to provide sport fishing guide services to a person unless the sport fishing guide also holds a current sport fishing operator license.

(e) While engaged in providing sport fishing guide services, a sport fishing guide shall have readily available for inspection

(1) a current sport fishing guide license;

(2) the current licenses, tags, and permits that are required to engage in the sport fishery for which the sport fishing guide services are being provided;

(3) a driver's license or similar identification card that is issued by a state or federal agency and that bears a photograph of the fishing guide; and

(4) proof of

(A) employment as a sport fishing guide by a person who holds a current sport fishing operator license; or

(B) current licensure as a sport fishing operator.

(f) A sport fishing guide may not

(1) aid in the commission of a violation of AS 16.05 - AS 16.40 or a regulation adopted under AS 16.05 - AS 16.40 by a client of the sport fishing guide; or

(2) permit the commission by a client of the sport fishing guide of a violation of AS 16.05 - AS 16.40 or a regulation adopted under AS 16.05 - AS 16.40 that the sport fishing guide knows or reasonably believes is being or will be committed without

(A) attempting to prevent it, short of using force; and

(B) reporting the violation.

**Sec. 16.40.281. Reports.** (a) The department may collect information from sport fishing guides, including

(1) the name and license number of each vessel licensed under AS 16.05.490 that is used in providing sport fishing guide services;

(2) the amount of fishing effort, catch, and harvest by clients of a sport fishing guide;

(3) the locations fished during the provision of sport fishing guide services; and

(4) other information that the department or board requires by regulation.

(b) A person who holds a license issued under AS 16.40.261 or 16.40.271 shall comply with the reporting requirements in this section and reporting requirements adopted in regulation by the department or board. The department and the board may adopt by regulation requirements for timely submission of reports required under this section or under regulations adopted by the department or board.

(c) A person who is required to complete reports under this section may not provide false information or omit material facts in a report.

(d) A person who is required to complete reports under this section may not be issued a new license under AS 16.40.261 or 16.40.271 unless the department has received all reports required under this section for the preceding year.

(e) Information collected under this section is confidential to the extent provided under AS 16.05.815.

(f) The department or board may adopt regulations under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) that it considers necessary to implement this section.

**Sec. 16.40.291. Penalty.** (a) Except as provided in (b) and (c) of this section, a person who knowingly violates AS 16.40.261 - 16.40.300 or a regulation adopted under AS 16.40.261 - 16.40.300 is guilty of a class A misdemeanor. However, this subsection does not apply to the failure to hold a current business license under AS 16.40.261(a)(1) as required under AS 43.70.

(b) A person who, without any culpable mental state, violates AS 16.40.271(e) is guilty of a violation.

(c) A person who knowingly violates AS 16.40.271(e) or who knowingly fails to comply with a requirement for timely submission of reports required by a regulation adopted under AS 16.40.281(b) is, for a

(1) first offense in a three-year period, guilty of a violation; and

(2) second or subsequent offense in a three-year period, guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

(d) In addition to any other penalty provided by law, a court may revoke the sport fishing guide license of a person who is convicted under (a) or (c)(2) of this section.

(e) In this section, "knowingly" has the meaning given in AS 11.81.900(a).

**Sec. 16.40.300. Definitions.** In AS 16.40.261 - 16.40.300,

(1) "sport fishing guide" means a person who is licensed to provide sport fishing guide services to persons who are engaged in sport fishing;

(2) "sport fishing guide services" means assistance, for compensation or with the intent to receive compensation, to a sport fisherman to take or to attempt to take fish by accompanying or physically directing the sport fisherman in sport fishing activities during any part of a sport fishing trip; "sport fishing guide services" does not include

(A) sport fishing services; or

(B) services provided by an assistant, deckhand, or similar person who works directly under the supervision of and on the same vessel as a sport fishing guide;

(3) "sport fishing services" means the indirect provision of assistance, for compensation or with the intent to receive compensation, to a person engaged in sport fishing in taking or attempting to take fish or shellfish by a business that employs a sport fishing guide to provide sport fishing guide services to the person during any portion of a sport fishing trip; "sport fishing services" does not include

(A) an activity for which a sport fishing guide license is required; or

(B) booking and other ancillary services provided by a tour broker or agent to a sport fishing services operator.

\* **Sec. 5.** AS 25.27.244(s)(2) is amended to read:

(2) "license"

(A) means, except as provided in (B) of this paragraph, a license, certificate, permit, registration, or other authorization that, at the time of issuance, will be valid for more than 150 days and that may be acquired from a state agency to perform an occupation, including the following:

- (i) license relating to boxing or wrestling under AS 05.10;
- (ii) authorization to perform an occupation regulated under AS 08;
- (iii) teacher certificate under AS 14.20;
- (iv) authorization under AS 18.08 to perform emergency medical services;
- (v) asbestos worker certification under AS 18.31;
- (vi) boiler operator's license under AS 18.60.395;
- (vii) certificate of fitness under AS 18.62;
- (viii) hazardous painting certification under AS 18.63;
- (ix) security guard license under AS 18.65.400 - 18.65.490;
- (x) license relating to insurance under AS 21.27;
- (xi) employment agency permit under AS 23.15.330 - 23.15.520;
- (xii) registration as a broker-dealer, an agent, a state investment adviser, or an investment adviser representative under AS 45.55.030;
- (xiii) certification as a pesticide applicator under AS 46.03.320;
- (xiv) certification as a storage tank worker or contractor under AS 46.03.375;
- (xv) certification as a water and wastewater works operator under AS 46.30;
- (xvi) commercial crewmember fishing license under AS 16.05.480 other than an entry permit or interim-use permit under AS 16.43;
- (xvii) fish transporter permit under AS 16.05.671;
- (xviii) **sport fishing operator license under AS 16.40.261;**

**(xix) sport fishing guide license under AS 16.40.271;**

[REPEALED]

(xix) REPEALED]

(B) does not include

(i) a vessel license issued under AS 16.05.490 or  
16.05.530;

(ii) [REPEALED]

(iii)] a business license issued under AS 43.70;

**(iii)** [(iv)] an entry permit or interim-use permit issued  
under AS 16.43; or

**(iv)** [(v)] a driver's license issued under AS 28.15;

\* **Sec. 6.** AS 41.21.506(b) is amended to read:

(b) The commissioner shall adopt regulations under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) that are necessary to achieve the purposes of AS 41.21.500 - 41.21.514 and to implement the plan adopted under (a) of this section. The regulations must

(1) designate incompatible uses and prohibit or restrict them; and

(2) establish a registration, licensing, or comparable procedure for professional fishing guides and such additional fishing guide controls as the commissioner considers necessary; **notwithstanding the requirements established by the commissioner to implement this paragraph, the commissioner shall establish a procedure by which the holder of a valid sport fishing operator license issued under AS 16.40.261 may petition for, and the director of the division of parks, or the director's designee, shall expeditiously issue, a waiver to allow the sport fishing operator license holder to use the services in the Kenai River Special Management Area of a guide licensed under AS 16.40.271 who has not completed the procedures and additional controls that are required by the department under this paragraph; the waiver authorized in this paragraph applies only for the duration of the sport fishing season during which the waiver application is submitted and only if the sport fishing operator license holder**

**(A) employing the licensed guide has lost the services of a  
licensed guide because of unforeseen circumstances; and**



**(B) is unable to hire as a replacement an available licensed guide who has satisfied all the requirements of this paragraph, including those required by regulation.**

\* **Sec. 7.** AS 41.21.506(b), as amended by sec. 6 of this Act, is amended to read:

(b) The commissioner shall adopt regulations under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) that are necessary to achieve the purposes of AS 41.21.500 - 41.21.514 and to implement the plan adopted under (a) of this section. The regulations must

(1) designate incompatible uses and prohibit or restrict them; and

(2) establish a registration, licensing, or comparable procedure for professional fishing guides and such additional fishing guide controls as the commissioner considers necessary [; NOTWITHSTANDING THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSIONER TO IMPLEMENT THIS PARAGRAPH, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ESTABLISH A PROCEDURE BY WHICH THE HOLDER OF A VALID SPORT FISHING OPERATOR LICENSE ISSUED UNDER AS 16.40.261 MAY PETITION FOR, AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF PARKS, OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE, SHALL EXPEDITIOUSLY ISSUE, A WAIVER TO ALLOW THE SPORT FISHING OPERATOR LICENSE HOLDER TO USE THE SERVICES IN THE KENAI RIVER SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA OF A GUIDE LICENSED UNDER AS 16.40.271 WHO HAS NOT COMPLETED THE PROCEDURES AND ADDITIONAL CONTROLS THAT ARE REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH; THE WAIVER AUTHORIZED IN THIS PARAGRAPH APPLIES ONLY FOR THE DURATION OF THE SPORT FISHING SEASON DURING WHICH THE WAIVER APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED AND ONLY IF THE SPORT FISHING OPERATOR LICENSE HOLDER

(A) EMPLOYING THE LICENSED GUIDE HAS LOST THE SERVICES OF A LICENSED GUIDE BECAUSE OF UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES; AND

(B) IS UNABLE TO HIRE AS A REPLACEMENT AN AVAILABLE LICENSED GUIDE WHO HAS SATISFIED ALL THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS PARAGRAPH, INCLUDING THOSE

REQUIRED BY REGULATION].

\* **Sec. 8.** AS 16.05.340(a)(27); AS 16.40.261, 16.40.271, 16.40.281, 16.40.291, 16.40.300; AS 25.27.244(s)(2)(A)(xviii), and 25.27.244(s)(2)(A)(xix) are repealed.

\* **Sec. 9.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

REGULATIONS. Notwithstanding AS 44.62.190, the Department of Fish and Game may use and enforce regulations previously adopted to administer former AS 16.40.260 - 16.40.299 to the extent those regulations do not conflict with the provisions of this Act. The Department of Fish and Game shall update and readopt those regulations in accordance with AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) to conform to the provisions of this Act. The regulations take effect under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not before the effective date of the law implemented by the regulation.

\* **Sec. 10.** Section 9 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

\* **Sec. 11.** Sections 3, 7, and 8 of this Act take effect January 1, 2026.

\* **Sec. 12.** Except as provided in secs. 10 and 11 of this Act, this Act takes effect January 1, 2016.