



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Public Safety

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February 16, 2016

The Honorable Cathy Giessel
Chair, Senate Resources Standing Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Giessel,

Please accept this request to schedule SB 60—Fish & Game: Offenses; Licenses; Penalties—for consideration by the Senate Resources Committee at your earliest convenience.

The big game resource is worth billions of dollars to the State of Alaska annually; hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and guiding are all important features of both the economy and the unique Alaskan lifestyle. This legislation reduces the burden on state agencies in safeguarding this asset while also benefitting the public by providing the Alaska Wildlife Troopers the authority to issue correctable citations to those who neglect to carry their valid permits, and allowing flexibility in charging some wildlife, fisheries, and habitat offenses. In addition, this bill increases the restitution amounts for illegally harvested animals for the first time in over three decades, and updates the law to allow the display of a license in an electronic format as many citizens now prefer, and standardized penalties for these offenses.

In addition, and importantly, this legislation provides an incentive for persons who have unlawfully taken a big game animal and wish to do the right thing, by prohibiting an order of restitution when the animal is immediately reported and voluntarily surrendered.

Major Bernard Chastain of the Alaska Wildlife Troopers will be present when the bill is considered and available to answer any questions the committee may have.

If you should need any additional information please contact Allison Hanzawa at 465-5505 or Allison.Hanzawa@alaska.gov.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this bill.

Sincerely,


Walt Monegan
Commissioner

Cc: Governor's Legislative Office