

**HOUSE BILL NO. 6**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVE RAUSCHER**

**Introduced: 1/18/17**

**Referred: Resources, Finance**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1   **"An Act establishing the Jonesville Public Use Area."**

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

3    \* **Section 1.** AS 41.23 is amended by adding new sections to read:

4           **Sec. 41.23.280. Purpose of AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289.** The purpose of  
5       AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289 is to protect, maintain, enhance, and perpetuate the present  
6       use of the area described in AS 41.23.286 as the Jonesville Public Use Area. The  
7       Jonesville Public Use Area is established to

8                   (1) protect, maintain, perpetuate, and enhance year-round general  
9       public recreation;

10                   (2) protect and maintain migratory waterfowl nesting areas and  
11       habitats for moose, Dall sheep, brown bear, and other fish and wildlife so that the  
12       public may continue to enjoy the fish and wildlife of the Jonesville Public Use Area;

13                   (3) provide opportunities for the public to enjoy the area through a full  
14       spectrum of public uses, including the maintenance and enhancement of off-road  
15       vehicle and nonmotorized recreational opportunities for the public; and

1 (4) allow

2 (A) continued motorized access for miners and owners of  
3 private property in the Jonesville Public Use Area; and

4 (B) additional public uses of the area determined by the  
5 commissioner to be compatible with this section.

6 **Sec. 41.23.282. Management.** (a) The commissioner is responsible for the  
7 management of the surface and subsurface estate of the Jonesville Public Use Area  
8 consistent with the purposes of AS 41.23.280. After adequate public hearings, the  
9 commissioner may designate incompatible uses and shall adopt and may revise a  
10 management plan for the Jonesville Public Use Area. The management plan must  
11 include provisions for the enforcement of the plan and compliance with the  
12 requirements of the plan. The commissioner shall consult with the Department of Fish  
13 and Game in the adoption and revision of the management plan.

14 (b) Subject to valid existing rights, the commissioner may not dispose of the  
15 surface estate in state land within the Jonesville Public Use Area.

16 (c) The commissioner of fish and game, the Board of Fisheries, and the Board  
17 of Game are responsible for the management of fish and game resources and the  
18 public use of fish and wildlife in the Jonesville Public Use Area consistent with the  
19 purposes of AS 41.23.280.

20 (d) The Jonesville Public Use Area may not be managed as a unit of the state  
21 park system.

22 (e) The commissioner shall identify wetland areas within the Jonesville Public  
23 Use Area and provide for the protection and use of the wetland areas in the  
24 management plan.

25 (f) The state may not acquire by eminent domain privately owned land within  
26 the boundaries described in AS 41.23.286 but may acquire privately owned land  
27 located within the boundaries described in AS 41.23.286 by purchase, exchange, or  
28 otherwise for inclusion in the Jonesville Public Use Area.

29 **Sec. 41.23.284. Incompatible uses.** (a) Except as provided in this section, the  
30 commissioner may prohibit or restrict uses determined to be incompatible with the  
31 purposes of the Jonesville Public Use Area under AS 41.23.280 within the state-

1 owned land and water described in AS 41.23.286.

2 (b) Nothing in AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289 prohibits the Department of Fish and  
3 Game from engaging in rehabilitation, enhancement, and development of fish and  
4 wildlife habitat within an area described in AS 41.23.286 that is consistent with the  
5 purposes stated in AS 41.21.280.

6 (c) The commissioner may not restrict

7 (1) lawful fishing, hunting, or trapping rights allowed under a  
8 regulation of the Board of Fisheries or the Board of Game within the Jonesville Public  
9 Use Area; or

10 (2) the use of weapons, including firearms, in the Jonesville Public Use  
11 Area, except in locations where the commissioner determines that the use of weapons  
12 constitutes a threat to public safety.

13 (d) The commissioner shall

14 (1) allow the Jonesville Public Use Area to be used for activities that

15 (A) are compatible with the reasons for establishing the public  
16 use area in AS 41.23.280; and

17 (B) include all-terrain vehicles, aircraft, watercraft,  
18 snowmachining, horseback riding, hiking, bicycling, dog sledding, cross-  
19 country skiing, skijoring, camping, hunting, fishing, trapping, wildlife viewing,  
20 photography, and, where permitted, rifle and pistol ranges, parking of  
21 vehicles, and mineral exploration and mining; and

22 (2) recognize the existing off-road motor vehicle trails and the access  
23 those trails provide within the Jonesville Public Use Area, make accommodations that  
24 will provide the shortest possible route to avoid critical habitat, conduct trail  
25 rehabilitation in a way that minimizes damage, maintain and enhance off-road motor  
26 vehicle options and opportunities in the Jonesville Public Use Area, and provide for  
27 responsible use of the public use area.

28 (e) The commissioner of public safety and the commissioner of fish and game  
29 shall have necessary access to the Jonesville Public Use Area for fish and game  
30 management, research, and enforcement purposes.

31 (f) If the commissioner determines that a use is incompatible with one or more

other uses in a portion of the Jonesville Public Use Area, the commissioner shall state in the management plan adopted or revised under AS 41.23.282

- (1) each determination of incompatibility;
- (2) the specific area where the incompatibility is determined to exist;
- (3) the time within which the incompatibility is determined to exist;

and

- (4) the reasons for the determination of incompatibility.

**Sec. 41.23.286. Jonesville Public Use Area.** Subject to valid existing rights, the vacant and unappropriated state-owned land and water and the state land and water acquired in the future that lie within the following boundaries described in this section are designated as the Jonesville Public Use Area, are reserved for all uses compatible with their primary function as public use land, and are assigned to the department for control and management:

- (1) Township 19 North, Range 2 East, Seward Meridian

Section 1: That portion easterly of Moose Creek

Section 12: That portion of N1/2, N1/2SW1/4, and N1/2SE1/4 easterly of Moose Creek

Section 13: NE1/4, SE1/4NW1/4, and S1/2

Section 24: All;

- (2) Township 19 North, Range 3 East, Seward Meridian

Section 2: All

Section 3: All

Section 4: All

Section 5: All

Section 6: All

Section 7: All

Section 8: All

Section 10: All

Section 11: All

Section 14: NE1/4

Section 15: N1/2NE1/4 and the North 960 feet of the East 1,815

feet of the NW1/4 for each Record of Survey filed as 86-85RS P.R.D.

Section 16: All

Section 17: All

Section 18: All

Section 19: NE1/4, E1/2NW1/4, NE1/4SW1/4, NW1/4SE1/4,  
and Government Lots 1, 2, and 4

Section 20: N1/2NE1/4, N1/2NW1/4, and SW1/4NW1/4

Section 21: All;

(3) Township 20 North, Range 2 East, Seward Meridian

Section 36: That portion easterly of Moose Creek;

(4) Township 20 North, Range 3 East, Seward Meridian

Section 31: All

Section 32: All

Section 33: All

Section 34: All

Section 35: All.

**Sec. 41.23.288. Enforcement authority.** (a) In the Jonesville Public Use Area described in AS 41.23.286, the following persons are peace officers of the state for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289 and regulations adopted under AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289:

(1) an employee of the department or another person authorized by the commissioner;

(2) a peace officer, as that term is defined in AS 01.10.060.

(b) A person designated in (a) of this section may, when enforcing the provisions of AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289 or a regulation adopted under AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289,

(1) execute a warrant or other process issued by an officer or court of competent jurisdiction;

(2) administer or take an oath, affirmation, or affidavit; and

(3) issue a citation or arrest a person who violates a provision of AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289 or a regulation adopted under AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289.

1 (c) A citation issued under (b) of this section must comply with the provisions  
2 of AS 12.25.175 - 12.25.230.

3 **Sec. 41.23.289. Penalty.** (a) Except for conduct that is a violation of  
4 AS 11.46.420, a person who violates a provision of AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289 or a  
5 regulation adopted under AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289 is guilty of a violation as defined  
6 in AS 11.81.900.

7 (b) Except for conduct that is a violation of AS 11.46.420, the supreme court  
8 shall establish by order or rule a schedule of bail amounts for violations under (a) of  
9 this section that allows the disposition of a citation without a court appearance.