

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE JOHN LINCOLN

Sponsor Statement House Bill 230 Ver. A

In 1994, the 18th Alaska Legislature recognized the importance of sustaining game populations for ensuring wild game food sources for Alaskans. This led to the creation of the intensive management program which is housed under the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The goal of intensive management is to ensure that moose, deer, and caribou populations remain robust and healthy enough to allow adequate and sustained harvest. If a population drops below what the Board of Game determines is needed for continued harvests, they will direct the department to undertake intensive management of that population. For example, on the Kenai Peninsula, the department, through a partnership with the Kenai Natives Association and landowners, successfully increased the moose population by enhancing the habitat by stimulating shrub growth to make food more accessible to the moose.

Though it was a successful program, intensive management was not self-supporting, but instead drew funding from the department's overall appropriation. In 2016, the 30th Alaska Legislature authorized a surcharge to hunting licenses that is used solely for intensive management activities. The surcharge increased license costs by \$10 for resident hunters and \$30 for non-resident hunters. The surcharge is currently set to be repealed on December 31, 2022.

House Bill 230 (HB 230) repeals the sunset date in section 33, ch. 18, SLA 2016. HB 230 does not impact current hunting license costs for either resident or non-resident hunters. This bill recognizes the success of the program and the continued value of wild game meat as a food source for Alaskans.