

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

HOUSE BILL 280

"An Act establishing the Alaska Invasive Species Council in the Department of Fish and Game; relating to management of invasive species; and providing for an effective date."

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS VERSION S

(Revised March 10, 2020)

Section One

Sec. 16.20.810 establishes the Alaska Invasive Species Council in the Department of Fish and Game. The council would be comprised of representatives from the Departments of Fish and Game, Natural Resources, Environmental Conservation and Transportation and Public Facilities. Furthermore, the council would have members from stakeholder organizations and industries appointed by the governor to three-year terms, as well as representatives from federal agencies that deal with invasive species.

Additionally, **Sec. 16.20.810** outlines the responsibilities of the council. This section requires that the department be responsible for facilitating cooperation between state, federal, tribal, local agencies and nongovernmental organizations in the prevention, management and eradication of invasive species. The council would also be tasked with providing guidance on how to prioritize the response to invasive species and how to best use funds from the invasive species response fund.

Furthermore, **Sec. 16.20.810** provides guidance on council meetings and deliverables. The council would meet at least once a year, and by January 15th of each odd-numbered year, the council shall produce a plan that addresses the economic impact of invasive species and recommendations on how to best meet the council's priorities.

Sec. 16.20.820 gives the Department of Fish and Game broad authority to use the means necessary to prevent, control and eradicate invasive species.

Sec. 16.20.830 requires the Department of Fish and Game consider the potential impact of non-native species and use this information to classify non-native species as prohibited, regulated or approved. In addition, this section requires the department to maintain the list of non-native species that are prohibited, regulated, or approved under this section and this would be required to be updated every three years.

Sec. 16.20.840 mandates that the commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game adopt regulations relating to the lawful use of an invasive species in the state and allows the department to seize and destroy an invasive species if it was determined that it was being used in violation of regulations.

Sec. 16.20.850 requires the Departments of Fish and Game, Natural Resources, and Environmental Conservation, work together to identify and designate waters infested with invasive species, that may spread if the water use is not regulated. In addition, this section gives the Department of Fish and Game authority to restrict or prohibit the use of the infested waters as well as regulate activities in and on the infested waters.

Sec. 16.20.860 mandates that individuals take certain measures to clean and drain boats, seaplanes and other property after removal from water in the state.

Sec. 16.20.870 establishes an invasive species response fund in the general fund and allows the Department of Fish and Game to use the funds to control and/or eradicate invasive species.

Sec. 16.20.900 defines introduce/introduction, invasive species and non-native species.

Section Two

Gives direction to the governor regarding the appointment of the members, chair, as well as timing and number of meetings in the initial year.

Section Three

Establishes an immediate effective date.