

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 54(FIN)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Offered: 2/4/22**

**Referred: Rules**

**Sponsor(s): HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

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

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

5       \* **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section  
6   to read:

7           LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the legislature that the Department of Fish  
8   and Game support the activities of the Alaska Invasive Species Council, established by this  
9   Act, through contributions, grants, and other forms of funding that do not involve the use of  
10   money from the state's general fund.

11       \* **Sec. 2.** AS 16.20 is amended by adding new sections to read:

12                   **Article 6. Management of Invasive Species.**

13                   **Sec. 16.20.800. Invasive species management decals.** The department shall  
14   annually produce and make available to the public invasive species management

1        decals. The department shall, in conjunction with the Alaska Invasive Species  
 2        Council, provide for the selection of designs for invasive species management decals  
 3        and for the production and sale of the decals. The department may produce and sell  
 4        different decals in quantities that the commissioner and council consider appropriate.  
 5        Upon payment of a \$20 fee, a person may purchase an invasive species management  
 6        decal from the department. The legislature may appropriate the annual estimated  
 7        balance in the account maintained by the commissioner of administration under  
 8        AS 37.05.142 to the department to carry out the purposes of this section or to the  
 9        invasive species response fund established under AS 16.20.820.

10        **Sec. 16.20.810. Alaska Invasive Species Council.** (a) The Alaska Invasive  
 11        Species Council is an advisory council established in the department to facilitate  
 12        efforts by the department, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of  
 13        Environmental Conservation, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities,  
 14        and other natural resource-related governmental entities operating in the state to  
 15        manage invasive species in the state by

16                (1) facilitating cooperation between state, federal, tribal, and local  
 17        agencies and nongovernmental organizations;

18                (2) assisting in coordination of activities to manage invasive species,  
 19        including those undertaken by local governments and nongovernmental organizations;

20                (3) recommending coordinated interagency strategies and policies  
 21        related to management of invasive species, including

22                        (A) importation, possession, and use of invasive species;

23                        (B) classification and listing of non-native species; and

24                        (C) management of pathways associated with transfer of  
 25        invasive species;

26                (4) upon a state agency's request, providing guidance as to how to  
 27        prioritize the state agency's responses to occurrences of invasive species and how  
 28        funds made available under AS 16.20.820 may be best used;

29                (5) recommending expenditures from the invasive species response  
 30        fund;

31                (6) providing technical information and assistance to persons engaged

1 in regional and national invasive species management efforts;

2 (7) selecting designers for invasive species management decals and  
3 approving and promoting the designs.

4 (b) Except as provided in (c) of this section, the council consists of

5 (1) the following members appointed by the governor to three-year  
6 terms:

7 (A) a representative of a soil and water conservation district  
8 established under AS 41.10.130;

9 (B) a person engaged in commercial agriculture, horticulture,  
10 or landscaping;

11 (C) a person engaged in commercial aquaculture or  
12 mariculture;

13 (D) a representative of a commercial fishing organization;

14 (E) a representative of a sport fishing organization;

15 (F) a representative of an Alaska tribal entity;

16 (G) a representative of an Alaska Native corporation;

17 (H) a person engaged in the tourism industry;

18 (I) a person who owns a seaplane, is employed as a seaplane  
19 pilot, or is otherwise knowledgeable about seaplanes;

20 (J) a representative of an organization formed to combat the  
21 spread of invasive species in the state;

22 (K) a person involved in the forest products industry;

23 (L) a person engaged in commercial excavation work,  
24 construction, mining, or the oil and gas industry;

25 (M) a person who has worked for or participated in a state  
26 program to prevent the spread of invasive plants;

27 (N) a member or representative of the Alaska Municipal  
28 League;

29 (O) a person engaged in management, research, or education  
30 activities relating to invasive species;

31 (P) a person engaged in the shipping industry;

1 (Q) a representative of a utility knowledgeable about utility  
2 corridors;

3 (2) a representative from each of the following federal agencies,  
4 serving ex officio, if the agency elects to participate:

5 (A) the Department of the Interior;

6 (B) the Department of Commerce;

7 (C) the Department of Agriculture;

8 (D) the Department of Homeland Security;

9 (E) the Department of Defense;

10 (3) the commissioner from each of the following departments or the  
11 commissioner's designee, serving ex officio:

12 (A) the Department of Fish and Game;

13 (B) the Department of Natural Resources;

14 (C) the Department of Environmental Conservation;

15 (D) the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; and

16 (4) the chairperson of the board of directors of the Alaska Railroad  
17 Corporation or the chairperson's designee.

18 (c) The council may, as the council finds necessary, invite additional persons  
19 to be nonvoting advisory members of the council. The council may prescribe  
20 procedures for the participation of persons added to the council under this subsection.

21 (d) The council shall adopt bylaws to govern its operation. The bylaws must  
22 provide procedures for

23 (1) decision making;

24 (2) periodically electing one member as chair;

25 (3) calling meetings; and

26 (4) establishing subcommittees and advisory committees.

27 (e) The council shall meet at least once each year. Meetings and council votes  
28 may be held by audio or video teleconference.

29 (f) Members of the council serve without compensation and are not entitled to  
30 per diem and travel expenses. However, a member appointed under (b)(3) of this  
31 section is entitled to per diem and travel expenses as a state employee.

(g) By January 15 of each odd-numbered year, the council shall prepare and present to the legislature an updated five-year strategic plan that addresses the economic effects of invasive species, states the council's suggested priorities for addressing invasive species, and recommends legislation and funding required to implement the council's priorities. The council shall transmit the plan to the senate secretary and the chief clerk of the house of representatives and notify the legislature that the strategic plan is available.

(h) Council members appointed under (b)(1) of this section serve staggered three-year terms and until a successor is appointed. If a vacancy occurs, the governor shall appoint a member for the unexpired portion of the term within 60 days after the occurrence of the vacancy.

**Sec. 16.20.820. Invasive species response fund.** The invasive species response fund is established as an account in the general fund. The fund consists of appropriations made to the fund. Money appropriated to the fund does not lapse. The department may use money appropriated to the fund to manage invasive species, without further appropriation.

**Sec. 16.20.850. Definitions.** In AS 16.20.800 - 16.20.850,

- (1) "commissioner" means the commissioner of fish and game;
- (2) "council" means the Alaska Invasive Species Council;
- (3) "department" means the Department of Fish and Game;
- (4) "invasive species" means a non-native species the introduction of which causes or is likely to cause economic harm, environmental harm, or harm to human health;
- (5) "manage invasive species" means to take actions to prevent or minimize harmful impacts of invasive species on the economy, the environment, public health, infrastructure, and cultural heritage;
- (6) "non-native species" includes any biological material capable of propagating a species that is not native to the state or an ecosystem in the state.

\* **Sec. 3.** AS 37.05.146(c) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(80) fees collected for invasive species management decals by the Department of Fish and Game under AS 16.20.800.

1     \* **Sec. 4.** AS 16.20.800, 16.20.810, 16.20.820, 16.20.850, and AS 37.05.146(c)(80) are  
2 repealed July 1, 2029.

3     \* **Sec. 5.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
4 read:

5           APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS AND CHAIR AND TIMING AND NUMBER OF  
6 MEETINGS REQUIRED IN INITIAL YEAR. (a) Notwithstanding AS 16.20.810(h), added  
7 by sec. 2 of this Act, the governor shall appoint the initial members of the Alaska Invasive  
8 Species Council required under AS 16.20.810(b)(1) within 60 days after the effective date of  
9 this Act. Notwithstanding AS 16.20.810(d)(2), the governor shall designate one member to  
10 serve as the initial chair of the council. The governor shall appoint the members to staggered  
11 terms as follows:

12                   (1) six members shall be appointed to serve three years;

13                   (2) six members shall be appointed to serve two years; and

14                   (3) five members shall be appointed to serve one year.

15           (b) Notwithstanding AS 16.20.810(d) and (e), added by sec. 2 of this Act, the Alaska  
16 Invasive Species Council shall

17                   (1) hold its first meeting within 90 days after the appointment of members  
18 under (a) of this section; and

19                   (2) meet at least four times in the 12 months following the appointment of  
20 members under (a) of this section.

21     \* **Sec. 6.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).