

33RD ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session:

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REPRESENTATIVE FRANK TOMASZEWSKI

Sponsor Statement

HB120 Nonresident Student Hunting, Fishing, Trapping License

House Bill 120 adds a new non-resident student hunting, fishing, and trapping license. Upon passage of this legislation, a non-resident student enrolled in classes full or half time, as determined by their school, can purchase a license at resident cost. This does not change any regulations or the cost of tags.

Research shows hunting and fishing have declined since the 1960s. As the percentage of the population that hunts, fishes, and traps declines, so does our conservation funding. Conservation funding by federal statutes (Pittman-Robertson Act, Dingell-Johnson Act, Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, etc.) is directly tied to excise taxes on things like ammunition, firearms, archery, and fishing equipment. These taxes are then distributed to the states' fish and game departments for conservation and management efforts. To access these federal dollars, the states must match the funding, Alaska does so by utilizing the revenue from hunting and fishing licenses. The direct correlation between our hunters and our conservation ability cannot be overlooked. It is critical that we encourage younger generations to participate in these wonderful outdoor activities.

Though hunting and fishing may not be easy hobbies to pick up, an additional financial burden may make it even harder. Many younger students who might be interested in learning how to hunt and fish are also trying to pay for college life. Lowering the license cost non-resident students pay may encourage them to go hunting, fishing, or trapping with their fellow students.

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