

Alaska State Legislature

Session:
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REPRESENTATIVE LOUISE STUTES
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House Bill 20 - Version A Sponsor Statement

"An Act relating to participation in matters before the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game by the members of the respective boards; and providing for an effective date."

House Bill 20 will improve the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game process by allowing members to participate in deliberations on subjects for which they have a declared personal or financial interest according to AS 39.52, the Executive Branch Ethics Act.

Board of Fisheries and Board of Game members are currently required to divulge a conflict of interest if they, or their immediate family members, are involved in the subject being deliberated on. At this time, the conflicted member cannot offer input on the process and cannot vote on the matter at hand. This bill allows the conflicted member to offer remarks and input, but still precludes them from voting on the issue at hand or on whether they have a conflict of interest.

Allowing members with expertise in particular fields to deliberate will help the boards make more informed decisions, will result in stronger resource management statewide, and will align the process with the original intent of allowing boards to benefit from members' knowledge and diversity of viewpoints.

Thank you for your support of this legislation.

Please contact my staff, Donna Fox Page, with questions at 465-3271.