

HOUSE BILL NO. 297

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Introduced: 1/26/24

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing the sport fishing angler access account; establishing the sport**
2 **fishing angler access surcharge; and providing for an effective date."**

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

4 *** Section 1.** AS 16.05.130 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5 (i) Money accruing to the state from the sport fishing angler access surcharge
6 imposed by AS 16.05.340(l) shall be deposited in a separate account known as the
7 sport fishing angler access account within the fish and game fund. The department
8 shall allocate money in the angler access account to programs intended to directly
9 benefit license purchasers through the development and improvement of access to and
10 services and facilities for lakes, ponds, or waterways not related to motor or power
11 boat use.

12 *** Sec. 2.** AS 16.05.340(i) is amended to read:

13 (i) If the commissioner determines that residents of the state are entitled to
14 obtain licenses for sport fishing, including sport fishing for anadromous king salmon,

1 in Yukon, Canada, for the same fees that are charged to residents of Yukon for
 2 comparable sport fishing licenses, the commissioner may adopt regulations
 3 authorizing residents of Yukon to receive

4 (1) nonresident annual sport fishing licenses for the fees charged to
 5 residents under (a) **and (l)** of this section for a resident sport fishing license; and

6 (2) nonresident anadromous king salmon annual tags for the fee
 7 charged to residents under (a) of this section for a resident anadromous king salmon
 8 tag.

9 * **Sec. 3.** AS 16.05.340 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

10 (l) In addition to the fees for a sport fishing license set out in (a) and (d) of this
 11 section, each person who purchases a sport fishing license shall pay a sport fishing
 12 angler access surcharge as set out in this subsection. The purpose of the surcharge is to
 13 provide funding for angler access of sport fisheries not related to motor or power boat
 14 use. A person who is eligible for a \$5 resident hunting, trapping, and sport fishing
 15 license under (a)(6) of this section or a free license under AS 16.05.341 is exempt
 16 from payment of the surcharge imposed under this subsection. The surcharge
 17 authorized by this subsection shall take effect on the date established by regulation by
 18 the commissioner. The amount of the surcharge attached to each sport fishing license
 19 must be clearly disclosed on the sport fishing license. The amount of the sport fishing
 20 angler access surcharge to be paid under this subsection for each sport fishing license
 21 is as follows:

- 22 (1) resident sport fishing license\$4
- 23 (2) resident hunting and sport fishing license4
- 24 (3) resident hunting, trapping, and sport fishing license4
- 25 (4) nonresident 14-day sport fishing license25
- 26 (5) nonresident seven-day sport fishing license20
- 27 (6) nonresident three-day sport fishing license10
- 28 (7) nonresident one-day sport fishing license5
- 29 (8) nonresident annual sport fishing license40
- 30 (9) special nonresident military small game and sport fishing license ...4
- 31 (10) special nonresident military sport fishing license4.

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

3 TRANSITION: REGULATIONS. The commissioner of fish and game may proceed to
4 adopt regulations necessary to implement the changes made by this Act. The regulations take
5 effect under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not before the law implemented by
6 the regulations.

7 * **Sec. 5.** Section 4 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

8 * **Sec. 6.** Except as provided in sec. 5 of this Act, this Act takes effect January 1, 2025.