

HOUSE BILL NO. 283

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE KOHRING

Introduced: 5/10/97

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to an exemption from the sport fishing license requirement for
2 blind residents."

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

4 * **Section 1.** AS 16.05.340(a)(1) is amended to read:

5 (1) Resident sport fishing license \$ 15
6 [HOWEVER, THE FEE IS 25 CENTS FOR A RESIDENT WHO IS BLIND.]

7 * **Sec. 2.** AS 16.05.400 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

8 (c) A sport fishing license is not required of a blind resident who has been
9 issued a permanent identification card under this subsection. The commissioner shall
10 issue a permanent identification card without charge to a resident who (1) provides
11 either an affidavit of the applicant stating that the applicant cannot distinguish light
12 from darkness or an affidavit signed by a licensed physician or a licensed optometrist
13 stating that the applicant's central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better
14 eye with correcting lenses or that the applicant's widest diameter of visual field

1 subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees, (2) provides proof of resident status, and
 2 (3) completes the forms required by the commissioner for implementation of this
 3 subsection. A permanent identification card is valid as long as the person to whom
 4 the card is issued can satisfy the requirements for the card. A person who is issued
 5 a permanent identification card under this subsection shall have the card in the
 6 person's physical possession while engaged in sport fishing.

7 * **Sec. 3.** AS 16.05.403(a) is amended to read:

8 (a) A resident hunting license, [A RESIDENT SPORT FISHING LICENSE,]
 9 a resident subsistence fishing permit, or a resident personal use fishing permit
 10 indicating that the purchaser is blind may be obtained from the department upon
 11 payment of the fee prescribed in AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430 and upon presentation of
 12 either an affidavit of the applicant stating that the applicant cannot distinguish light
 13 from darkness or an affidavit signed by a licensed physician or a licensed optometrist
 14 stating that the applicant's central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better
 15 eye with correcting lenses or that the applicant's widest diameter of visual field
 16 subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees.

17 * **Sec. 4.** AS 16.05.405(c) is amended to read:

18 (c) Notwithstanding AS 16.05.420(c), a resident holding a valid noncommercial
 19 fishing license may take fish on behalf of a person who is blind, a person with
 20 physical disabilities, or a person who is 65 years of age or older if the resident
 21 possesses on the resident's person

22 (1) a document signed by the person on whose behalf the fish is taken,
 23 stating that the resident possesses the person's sport fishing license, subsistence fishing
 24 permit, personal use fishing permit, or permanent identification card in order to take
 25 fish on behalf of that person;

26 (2) the person's

27 (A) resident sport fishing license issued under AS 16.05.403 or
 28 permanent identification card issued under AS 16.05.400(b) or (c)
 29 [AS 16.05.400(b)];

30 (B) resident subsistence fishing permit issued under
 31 AS 16.05.403; or

1 (C) resident personal use fishing permit issued under
2 AS 16.05.403; and

3 (3) all other documents issued to the person that are required by law
4 as a condition of taking the fish being pursued.