

SENATE BILL NO. 250

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATORS SHARP, Taylor

Introduced: 1/21/98

Referred: Resources, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to management of game and to the duties of the commissioner
2 of fish and game."

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

4 * **Section 1.** LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds that providing for high
5 levels of harvest for human consumptive use, consistent with the sustained yield principle, is
6 the highest and best use of big game prey populations in most areas of the state and that big
7 game prey populations should be biologically managed for abundance.

8 * **Sec. 2.** AS 16.05.255(g)(2) is amended to read:

9 (2) "intensive management" means management of an identified big
10 game prey population **for sustained yield through active management measures** to
11 enhance, extend, and develop the population to maintain high levels or provide for
12 higher levels of human harvest, including control of predation and prescribed or
13 planned use of fire and other habitat improvement techniques.

14 * **Sec. 3.** AS 16.05.255(g) is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

1 (3) "harvestable surplus" means the number of animals that is estimated
 2 to equal the number of offspring born in a game population during a year less the
 3 number of animals in the population that die from all causes, other than predation or
 4 human harvest, during that year;

5 (4) "high level of human harvest" means the opportunity with a high
 6 probability of success for humans to harvest at least one-quarter of the harvestable
 7 surplus of a game population;

8 (5) "sustained yield" means the achievement and maintenance in
 9 perpetuity of a high level of human harvest of game, other than mammalian predators,
 10 on an annual or periodic basis.

11 * **Sec. 4.** AS 16.05.255 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

12 (h) The Board of Game shall establish population and harvest goals and
 13 seasons to manage big game prey populations to achieve a high level of human
 14 harvest.

15 * **Sec. 5.** AS 16.05.270 is amended to read:

16 **Sec. 16.05.270. Delegation of authority to commissioner.** (a) For the
 17 purpose of administering AS 16.05.251 and 16.05.255, each board may delegate
 18 authority to the commissioner to act on [IN] its behalf.

19 **(b) If a board delegates authority to the commissioner to act on its behalf,**
 20 **the commissioner shall cooperate with and assist the board by implementing**
 21 **regulations, management plans, and other management programs as requested by**
 22 **the board.**

23 (c) If there is a conflict between the board and the commissioner on proposed
 24 regulations, public hearings shall be held concerning the issues in question. If, after
 25 the public hearings, the board and the commissioner continue to disagree, the issue
 26 shall be certified in writing by the board and the commissioner to the governor, who
 27 shall make a decision. The decision of the governor is final.