

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**SENATE RESOURCES STANDING COMMITTEE**

April 8, 2014

8:06 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Senator Fred Dyson, Vice Chair  
Senator Peter Micciche  
Senator Anna Fairclough  
Senator Hollis French

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Senator Cathy Giessel, Chair  
Senator Click Bishop  
Senator Lesil McGuire

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

HOUSE BILL NO. 246

"An Act adding additional land and water to the Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge."

- MOVED HB 246 OUT OF COMMITTEE

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: HB 246

SHORT TITLE: CREAMER'S FIELD WATERFOWL REFUGE

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) HIGGINS

|          |     |  |
|----------|-----|--|
| 01/21/14 | (H) | PREFILE RELEASED 1/10/14                               |
| 01/21/14 | (H) | READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS                        |
| 01/21/14 | (H) | RES  |
| 02/24/14 | (H) | RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124                              |
| 02/24/14 | (H) | Moved Out of Committee                                 |
| 02/24/14 | (H) | MINUTE(RES)  |
| 02/26/14 | (H) | RES RPT 6DP 1NR  |
| 02/26/14 | (H) | DP: HAWKER, P.WILSON, OLSON, SEATON,<br>SADDLER, FEIGE |
| 02/26/14 | (H) | NR: JOHNSON  |
| 03/13/14 | (H) | TRANSMITTED TO (S)                                     |
| 03/13/14 | (H) | VERSION: HB 246  |
| 03/14/14 | (S) | READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS                        |
| 03/14/14 | (S) | RES  |
| 04/08/14 | (S) | RES AT 8:00 AM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)                      |

**WITNESS REGISTER**

REPRESENTATIVE PETE HIGGINS  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska,  
**POSITION STATEMENT:** Sponsor of HB 246

**ACTION NARRATIVE**

8:06:40 AM

**CHAIR CATHY GIESSEL** called the Senate Resources Standing Committee meeting to order at 8:06 a.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Fairclough, Micciche, French, and Vice Chair Dyson.

**HB 246-CREAMER'S FIELD WATERFOWL REFUGE**

8:07:21 AM

**VICE CHAIR DYSON** announced the consideration of HB 246. "An Act adding additional land and water to the Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge."

8:07:39 AM

**REPRESENTATIVE PETE HIGGINS**, sponsor of HB 246, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, introduced the bill speaking to the following sponsor statement: [Original punctuation provided.]

HB 246 repeals and reenacts AS 16.20.039 to add additional lands to Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge.

The boundary change in HB 246 proposes to incorporate a total of four parcels of land adjacent to Creamer's Migratory Waterfowl Refuge purchased by the State of Alaska, some dating back to 2001. These acquired parcels, although not officially part of the refuge, have been managed as refuge land since management authority was delegated to the Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The Alaska Department of Fish & Games, Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge Interim Management Plan strives to achieve balance between a variety of user groups including bird watchers, skijors, dog mushers, cross country skiers, hunters, trappers, snowmachiners, a variety of dog training groups,

school groups, etc. The ADF&G staff at Creamer's Refuge takes great pride in the fact that they are truly a multi-user refuge.

ADF&G currently see no reason to alter the Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge Interim Management Plan to restrict, deny, or otherwise impinge on any of the recognized activities that were addressed in this plan.

SENATOR FAIRCLOUGH asked if any other entity is asking for a different ownership style for these parcels.

REPRESENTATIVE HIGGINS replied he is not aware of anyone asking for any different use. He added that most of the property is wetlands so the refuse designation is appropriate.

VICE CHAIR DYSON commented that this is a significant part of the migratory water fowl flyway.

SENATOR MICCICHE asked if this property is open to both hunting and water fowl viewing.

REPRESENTATIVE HIGGINS offered his understanding that there is a little bit of hunting and trapping, which will continue to be allowed.

[8:11:26 AM](#)

SENATOR FAIRCLOUGH asked if there are natural boundaries so that people will know these four parcels are part of the refuge.

REPRESENTATIVE HIGGINS answered no; the area is mostly flat and swampy.

SENATOR FRENCH summarized that this makes the refuge bigger but does not change the way it's managed.

REPRESENTATIVE HIGGINS confirmed it would be larger, but management remains the same. Responding to a further question, he said there has been no opposition.

VICE CHAIR DYSON noted that Doug Vincent-Lang with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game was available to answer questions.

Finding no questions or public testimony, he solicited a motion.

[8:12:58 AM](#)

SENATOR FAIRCLOUGH moved to report HB 246, version 28-LS1214\A, from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s).

VICE CHAIR DYSON announced that without objection HB 246 passes from the Senate Resources Standing Committee.

[8:13:49 AM](#)

VICE CHAIR DYSON adjourned the Senate Resources Standing Committee.