

SENATE BILL NO. 68

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR GIESSEL

Introduced: 3/6/15

Referred: Resources

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to resident big game tags; relating to the authority of the Board of
2 Game and of advisory committees of the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game to
3 effect emergency closures during established seasons; relating to antlerless moose
4 seasons; and providing for an effective date."

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

6 * **Section 1.** AS 16.05.260 is amended to read:

7 **Sec. 16.05.260. Advisory committees.** The Board of Fisheries and the Board
8 of Game may adopt regulations they consider advisable in accordance with AS 44.62
9 (Administrative Procedure Act) establishing, at places in the state designated by the
10 individual boards, advisory committees to be composed of persons well informed on
11 the fish or game resources of the locality. The boards shall set the number and terms of
12 each of the members of the advisory committees, shall delegate one member of each
13 committee as **chair** [CHAIRMAN], and shall give the **chair** [CHAIRMAN] authority
14 to hold public hearings on fish or game matters. Recommendations from the advisory

1 committees shall be forwarded to the appropriate board for [THEIR] consideration,
2 but, if the Board of Fisheries or the Board of Game chooses not to follow the
3 recommendations of the local advisory committee, the appropriate board shall inform
4 the appropriate advisory committee of this action and state the reasons for not
5 following the recommendations. Except for antlerless moose seasons subject to
6 AS 16.05.780, the [THE] commissioner shall delegate authority to advisory
7 committees for emergency closures during established seasons. The commissioner is
8 empowered to set aside and make null and void only opening of seasons set by the
9 advisory committees under this section. The appropriate board shall adopt the
10 necessary regulations governing these closures.

11 * **Sec. 2.** AS 16.05.340(a)(16) is amended to read:

12 (16) Resident big game tags

13 (A) Bear, brown or grizzly, each 25

14 The Board of Game may [,] by regulation [EFFECTIVE FOR NOT MORE
15 THAN ONE YEAR,] eliminate the resident brown or grizzly bear tag and fee
16 for all or a portion of a game management unit.

17 (B) Musk oxen, each 500

18 However, the Board of Game may by regulation reduce or eliminate the
19 resident big game tag and fee for musk oxen for all or a portion of a game
20 management unit.

21 * **Sec. 3.** AS 16.05.780 is amended to read:

22 **Sec. 16.05.780. Taking of antlerless moose prohibited.** (a) The taking of
23 antlerless moose in any game management unit or subunit or a portion of a unit or
24 subunit is prohibited except that antlerless moose may be taken only under regulations
25 adopted under (b) of this section after

26 (1) the department recommends the season be opened in that unit or
27 subunit [YEAR,] based on biological evidence; [,] and

28 (2) a majority of active local advisory committees for that unit or
29 subunit have recommended an opening [FOR THAT YEAR,] after each has taken a
30 vote and a majority of the members of those committees have voted in the affirmative.

31 (b) Subject [PURSUANT] to (a) of this section, the board, in its regularly

1 scheduled [ANNUAL] game board meeting **for a region**, may adopt regulations for
2 the taking of antlerless moose in any game management unit or subunit in **that region**.
3 **If the board adopts a regulation allowing the taking of antlerless moose in a game**
4 **management unit or subunit, the season or area may not be closed until the next**
5 **regularly scheduled game board meeting for the region** [ANY YEAR].

6 * **Sec. 4.** AS 16.05.780 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

7 (c) If an antlerless moose season is approved for a game management unit or
8 subunit under (a) of this section, and the department collects an application fee for
9 antlerless moose hunting in that unit or subunit, the advisory committee with
10 jurisdiction over that unit or subunit may not effect an emergency closure of that unit
11 or subunit to antlerless moose hunting for that season.

12 * **Sec. 5.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2016.