

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

February 22, 2025

11:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Louise Stutes, Chair
Representative Bryce Edgmon, Vice Chair
Representative Rebecca Himschoot
Representative Chuck Kopp
Representative Sarah Vance

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Kevin McCabe
Representative Bill Elam

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HOUSE BILL NO. 93

"An Act changing the residency requirements for hunting, trapping, and sport fishing privileges; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED HB 93 OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HB 93

SHORT TITLE: RESIDENCY REQ: HUNTING, TRAPPING, FISHING

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) HIMSCHOOT

02/10/25	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/10/25	(H)	FSH, RES
02/18/25	(H)	FSH AT 10:00 AM GRUENBERG 120
02/18/25	(H)	Heard & Held
02/18/25	(H)	MINUTE (FSH)
02/22/25	(H)	FSH AT 11:00 AM GRUENBERG 120

WITNESS REGISTER

MAJOR AARON FRENZEL, Deputy Director
Alaska Wildlife Troopers
Department of Public Safety
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions regarding HB 93

ACTION NARRATIVE

[11:00:54 AM](#)

CHAIR LOUISE STUTES called the House Special Committee on Fisheries meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Representatives Stutes, Edgmon, Himschoot, Kopp and Vance were present at the call to order.

HB 93-RESIDENCY REQ: HUNTING, TRAPPING, FISHING

[11:01:48 AM](#)

CHAIR STUTES announced that the only order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 93, "An Act changing the residency requirements for hunting, trapping, and sport fishing privileges; and providing for an effective date."

CHAIR STUTES noted that it was her intent, and if the will of the committee, to move HB 93 to its next committee.

[11:02:43 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HIMSCHOOT, as prime sponsor, reintroduced HB 93. She remarked that HB 93 would align the resident hunting and fishing licensure requirements with the requirements of the permanent fund dividend (PFD). She said this would make residency more enforceable for law enforcement and would lead to more effective citations where they are needed. She said it would also preserve the resource for the residents. She said the goal is to preserve resources and support law enforcement.

[11:04:25 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE VANCE said that she was looking at a document that the Department of Public Safety legislative liaison provided regarding the annual amount of residency investigations conducted by law enforcement. She noted that the document stated that the Alaska Wildlife Troopers conduct 118 investigations per year. She asked how many convictions were made of these investigations.

[11:05:09 AM](#)

MAJOR AARON FRENZEL, Deputy Director, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, Department of Public Safety, responded that he looked at this number and doing a thorough investigation would take time. He remarked that each case is different regarding their outcome in court. He explained the complications associated with researching these convictions. He said that out of those 118 cases, some could involve multiple years of investigation and could yield multiple charges for a single incident.

[11:06:52 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE VANCE said that she was trying to grasp how widespread of a problem this is. She noted that something that someone saw is often different from an actual conviction.

[11:07:41 AM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 11:07 a.m. to 11:14 a.m.

[11:14:37 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE KOPP asked Major Frenzel that from an enforcement perspective, did he think that there is a benefit to realigning the residency requirement with the PFD requirements.

MAJOR FRENZEL responded that having an exact number of days allowed to be absent from the state would make enforcement easier. He said the Department of Public Safety is neutral on this issue but said the amount of time that a person can be gone is not defined and allows people to be a resident for hunting and fishing purposes while being in the state a minimal amount of time.

[11:16:10 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE KOPP commented that from a field perspective as an enforcement officer and the conversation on the initial contact, that most residents apply for a PFD and almost everybody has a smartphone. He said if they applied for a PFD then they could show this information on a smartphone. He said it would be one more tool enforcement has, and any legal resident should have no problem showing PFD information. He said it seems like a "good tool in the box."

[11:17:59 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE EDGMON commented that he supports the bill but the PFD residency requirements are for January 1 and a person could come into the state in February and not qualify for residency requirements for more than a year. He asked for clarification regarding licensure.

REPRESENTATIVE HIMSCHOOT clarified the PFD deadlines and how it related to hunting and fishing licensure.

REPRESENTATIVE EDGMON remarked that there were some residency cases that were very expensive to go through the court process and this could impact the fiscal note.

[11:19:23 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE VANCE said that she shares the concerns that resources need to be protected but remarked that she still has reservations around the mechanics of the bill itself. She pointed out Section 2 of the bill that defines residency and stated that discussions with other legislators were taking place to define residency regarding the elections. She said she would like to continue to work with the bill sponsor regarding this topic. She said that questions regarding residency definition have been commonplace and stated that these definitions should be common law. She proceeded to talk about residency and intent and their complications with regards to court systems and other institutions.

[11:21:49 AM](#)

CHAIR STUTES echoed Representative Vance's remarks and that hunting and fishing resources are dear to Alaskans. She said that she was delighted to see something that could potentially support enforcement efforts. She stated that she supported the bill but understood that other committees could help strengthen it.

[11:22:39 AM](#)

CHAIR STUTES entertained a motion.

[11:22:53 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE EDGMON moved to report HB 93, out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, HB 93 was reported out of the House Special Committee on Fisheries.

[11:23:27 AM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 11:23 p.m. to 11:25 p.m.

[11:25:49 AM](#)

CHAIR STUTES discussed the upcoming committee schedule and its objective.

[11:26:20 AM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Special Committee on Fisheries meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m.