

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MR. COGHILL

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 197

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA

4 TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act to allow trapping claims for fur
7 bearing animals to be staked upon the
8 public domain of Alaska."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA:

10 Section 1. Any person qualified to vote in Alaska may
11 stake and claim a trapline upon the public domain of Alaska
12 within the recording precinct in which he is a qualified voter
13 under the following conditions:

14 (a) Such trapline shall not exceed 225 square miles in
15 area, nor be more than twice as long as its greatest width.

16 (b) Lateral boundaries shall follow water divides where
17 practical and require no other marking. That end boundaries
18 shall be as nearly as practicable at right angles to watercourses,
19 and marked by blazes, posts or tripods.

20 (c) Notices of location shall be filed for recording with
21 the recorder of the district in which said trapline is claimed,
22 giving the location and boundaries of said claim so that any
23 person reasonably acquainted with the area may find said claim.

24 (d) The claim holder must post beside each road or trail
25 crossing his trapline a notice in a conspicuous place beside
26 such road or trail wherever it may enter or leave his trapline.

27 (e) Each claim holder must live upon his claim not less
28 than three months out of each federal fiscal year.

29 (f) Each claim holder must file for record not later than

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1 July 1st of each year his intentions to retain and hold his
2 claim upon said trapline.

3 Section 2. All fur bearing animals not taken primarily
4 for their meat upon any such valid trapline shall be considered
5 as domesticated animals before the law, and the exclusive prop-
6 erty of the valid holder of the trapline.

7 Section 3. Failure of any claim holder to fulfill the
8 requirements of Section 1 hereof shall invalidate his claim to
9 the trapline, which claim may then be staked by any person
10 authorized to stake a trapline in the area, upon proof before
11 the U.S. Commissioner of the recording district that the original
12 claim holder so failed to fulfill the requirements of Section 1
13 hereof.

14 Section 4. No trapping claim shall prevent any other per-
15 son from staking mining claims, homestead claims, or any other
16 legal claim upon the public domain covered by his trapping claim.

17 Section 5. No person who shall lose his trapping claim for
18 failure to fulfill the requirements of Section 1 hereof, or
19 who shall abandon his valid claim upon one trapline under
20 authority of this Act, shall claim or stake another trapline
21 upon public domain within a period of five (5) years after
22 the end of the fiscal year in which he has lost or abandoned
23 one trapping claim.

24 Section 6. Any valid trapline claimed and held hereunder
25 shall be transferrable to any person qualified under this Act
26 to stake and hold a trapline; but no one person shall claim or
27 hold more than one trapline upon the public domain of Alaska at
28 any one time.

29 Section 7. The status or administration of fur bearing

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animals outside the boundaries of traplines held hereunder shall in no way be affected by the provisions of this Act. No trapping claim holder hereunder shall claim right or title to any fur bearing animal outside the boundaries of his claim by virtue of straying, or for any other reason excepting deliberate theft. No claim holder under authority of this Act shall take, or attempt to take, any fur bearing animal upon the public domain in Alaska excepting upon his own trapping claim. No trapping claim hereunder shall include the right to prevent trespass upon or across said claim for any lawful reason.

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