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IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE  
BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 456

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

A BILL

For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Walrus Islands in Bristol Bay as a State Game Sanctuary; to be known as the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary; providing for multiple use and lease; prohibiting sale thereof; and providing an effective date."

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

Section 1. FINDINGS OF FACT. The Legislature of the State of Alaska recognizes these facts:

(1) The Walrus Islands are the sole remaining place in Alaska where walrus haul out on land. Of several similar "hauling grounds" in Alaska which were formerly utilized, all have been abandoned by walrus due to excessive molestation and slaughter.

(2) The Walrus Islands are uninhabited, and the walrus frequenting them are not required by Alaska for subsistence utilization.

(3) As a retreat for the depleted stocks of the Pacific Walrus, the Walrus Islands assume great importance from the standpoints of conservation, scientific value, and tourist interest.

(4) The Department of Natural Resources has taken appropriate action to achieve transfer of title in the Walrus Islands to the State of Alaska.

1                   Therefore, in order to protect the walruses and  
2 other game on the Walrus Islands, this statute is enacted.

3                   Sec. 2. SANCTUARY ESTABLISHED. The following land areas  
4 located in Bristol Bay and the adjacent state waters are estab-  
5 lished as a state game sanctuary to be known as the Walrus  
6 Islands State Game Sanctuary:

7                   Round Island

8                   Crooked Island

9                   High Island

10                  Summit Island

11                  The Twins

12                  Black Rock

13                  Sec. 3. AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER. The Alaska Board of Fish  
14 and Game is authorized to adopt regulations governing entry,  
15 development, construction, hunting, fishing, and all other uses  
16 or activities not in conflict with Secs. 4 and 5 of this Act for  
17 the purpose of preserving the natural habitat and the fish and  
18 game of the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary.

19                  Sec. 4. MULTIPLE USE. Oil and mineral exploration and  
20 development is permitted on the Walrus Islands State Game Sanc-  
21 tuary in accordance with appropriate state or federal laws and  
22 regulations, subject to the limitations of Sec. 5 of this Act and  
23 to such additional limitations as may be jointly determined by  
24 the Commissioner of Natural Resources and the Commissioner of  
25 Fish and Game to assure compatible multiple land use practices.

26                  Sec. 5. SALE AND LEASE. Lands comprising the Walrus Islands  
27 State Game Sanctuary shall not be sold. These lands may be  
28 leased only as mineral lands as authorized in applicable Depart-  
29 ment of Natural Resources regulations.



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Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect on the day after its passage and approval or on the day it becomes law without such approval.