

Introduced: 2/25/66
Referred:

1 IN THE HOUSE BY POLAND

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 469

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act allowing persons to hunt big game
7 for trophy purposes only."

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

9 * Section 1. PURPOSE. The legislature has become aware of an
10 inconsistency in state policy in regard to sportsmen, particularly
11 non-resident sportsmen, who seek to take big game in the state for
12 trophy purposes. The legislature recognizes that the great appeal
13 of Alaska to sportsmen is the prospect of taking trophy animals
14 which, in many instances, cannot be matched for variety or size
15 elsewhere in the United States. The hunting of these animals
16 necessarily means, however, that they will be taken in the more
17 isolated areas of the state and that often, because of transporta-
18 tion and weather difficulties, sportsmen have no choice but to
19 leave the carcasses of the animals in the field. Despite a
20 restrictive construction of the wanton waste laws of the state by
21 the courts, the legislature finds that fish and game enforcement
22 officers, because of apparent unawareness or disregard of the
23 judicial construction of these laws, indiscriminately charge sports-
24 men with violation of the wanton waste laws. This practice by
25 enforcement officers has become so common that many sportsmen and
26 guides consider this practice to be a deliberate form of harrass-
27 ment, and if continued, will damage the reputation of Alaska as a
28 prime area for the hunting of trophy animals. The legislature
29 therefore determines that it is proper to recognize a distinction

1 between sportsmen who take game for trophy purposes and those who
2 take game for food purposes, particularly in view of the fact that
3 trophy animals, because of age, are not always preferred for food.
4 The legislature considers it to be in the public interest to
5 allow persons, whether residents or not, to take big game solely
6 for the purpose of acquiring trophies, provided that these persons
7 pay a fee which will serve as equitable restitution to the public
8 for the incomplete utilization of a natural resource. Since the
9 present policy of requiring non-residents to acquire big game tags
10 is, in essence, a charge for trophies, the legislature considers
11 these fees to be appropriate ones to retain for the purposes of
12 this Act.

13 * Sec. 2. AS 16.05.340(a)(9) is repealed and re-enacted to
14 read:

15 (9) Nonresident hunting and sport fishing
16 license \$20
17 A nonresident may not take an animal listed in (16) of this
18 section unless he purchases the appropriate trophy tag for
19 the animal as prescribed in (16) of this section.

20 * Sec. 3. AS 16.05.340(a)(16) is amended to read:

21 (16) Trophy [NONRESIDENT BIG GAME] tags:
22 Brown or grizzly bear each \$75
23 Polar bear, each 150
24 Black bear or deer, each 10
25 Bison, moose, or sheep, each 50
26 Walrus, each 100
27 Elk, goats, or caribou, each 25

28 * Sec. 4. AS 16.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

29 Sec. 16.05.345. TROPHY TAGS. (a) A resident may pur-

1 chase a trophy tag for the fee set forth in sec. 340(16) of
2 this chapter.

3 (b) A trophy tag entitles the purchaser to sever that
4 part or parts of the animal which are useful for trophy
5 purposes and to dispose of the residue of the animal in any
6 manner he chooses.

7 (c) A trophy tag shall bear the number of the hunting
8 license issued to the purchaser of the tag. The department
9 shall issue two copies of the tag to the purchaser.

10 (d) If a person who purchased a trophy tag decides to
11 leave, in the field, an animal which he has taken, he shall
12 immediately sever that part or parts of the animal which are
13 useful for trophy purposes, attach one copy of the tag to the
14 largest trophy part which he retains and attach the other
15 copy to the carcass of the animal. A tag attached to a
16 trophy part under (d) of this section must remain attached
17 to the trophy part until the hunting trip during which the
18 trophy is taken is completed, except that if a person attach-
19 ing a tag is a nonresident who entered the state primarily
20 to take the trophy, the tag must remain attached until the
21 trophy is exported. If a nonresident desires to retain the
22 whole animal, both tags shall be immediately attached to the
23 animal and remain attached until the animal is prepared for
24 storage, consumed or exported.

25 (e) It is not wanton waste within the meaning of AS 16.
26 05.830 or AS 16.30.010 for a person to leave an animal, which
27 he has taken, in the field if he severs the trophy part or
28 parts of the animal and attaches an appropriate trophy tag to
29 the carcass.