

Introduced: 3/8/71
Referred: Rules

Am H

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the taking of polar
6 bear with the aid or use of aircraft.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 WHEREAS the polar bear is uniquely an "international" animal whose
9 continued existence is a concern to all nations; and

10 WHEREAS biologists disagree as to the stability of its population and
11 its migration patterns, but it is universally acknowledged in any case that
12 the majority of polar bears are found outside our state jurisdiction; and

13 WHEREAS, due to these and other reasons, many nations of the world have
14 banned sport hunting of polar bear; and

15 WHEREAS Alaska's management standard of "maximum sustained yield",
16 without limiting the common mode of aircraft hunting, is resulting in an
17 alarmingly high illegal take of bears; and

18 WHEREAS, due to aircraft hunter mobility, in conjunction with the vast
19 geographic areas to be covered, and the adverse weather conditions of polar
20 bear habitat, effective enforcement of existing law is impossible; and

21 WHEREAS notwithstanding all of the above, current scientific studies
22 and tagging programs being undertaken by the Department of Fish and Game
23 require harvesting for an additional two seasons to be made under existing
24 law;

25 BE IT RESOLVED that the Seventh Alaska State Legislature respectfully
26 requests that the Board of Fish and Game initiate at the next game board
27 meeting, and adopt at the subsequent game board meeting in 1971, a regulation
28 that will effectively prohibit the taking of a polar bear with the aid or
29 use of an aircraft in any manner after January 1, 1973.

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