

Introduced: 4/25/79
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY
REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

2 HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 6

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to federal regulations to
6 exempt certain Federal Aid in Wild-
7 life Restoration programs from EIS
8 requirements.

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

10 WHEREAS the wildlife resources of the State of Alaska are of incalcula-
11 ble value to residents of the state for both consumptive and nonconsumptive
12 uses including hunting, viewing, photography, conservation, scientific,
13 tourist, esthetic, and educational purposes; and

14 WHEREAS hunting license revenue and matching federal money under
15 provisions of the federal Pittman-Robertson (P-R) Act of 1937 have histori-
16 cally provided the only source of funding for Alaska's wildlife restoration
17 activities; and

18 WHEREAS, in Alaska, P-R funds currently account for 60 per cent of the
19 Division of Game's \$6,000,000 budget; and

20 WHEREAS litigation initiated by the Committee for Humane Legislation
21 and Friends for Animals against Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus in
22 the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia temporarily threatens
23 to halt disbursement to Alaska of these P-R funds; and

24 WHEREAS if the state's P-R funds are not available as of July 1, 1979,
25 most of the state's wildlife management programs for both hunted and non-
26 hunted species will come to a halt, in the absence of additional state
27 funding; and

28 WHEREAS the basis for this litigation is the plaintiffs' contention
29 that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should complete environmental im-

1 pact statements (EIS's) on some 182 P-R funded projects nationwide in order
2 to comply with the terms of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
3 and NEPA guidelines; and

4 WHEREAS the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has published proposed reg-
5 ulations that would categorically exempt many P-R projects from the EIS
6 requirement; and

7 WHEREAS adoption of these regulations would enable Alaska to receive
8 P-R funds and thereby maintain the current wildlife restoration program
9 which provides for the protection and enhancement of the state's wildlife
10 resources;

11 BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the State of Alaska urges the
12 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to adopt these regulations to insure contin-
13 uity of program funding for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration programs in
14 Alaska.

15 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Cecil D.
16 Andrus, Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior; to the Honorable
17 Lynn Greenwalt, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and to the
18 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U.S. Senators, and the
19 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation
20 in Congress.