

Introduced: 1/22/82
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 51

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the enhancement of wild-
6 life populations through predator
7 management.

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

9 WHEREAS Alaskans depend heavily on wild game for sustenance; and

10 WHEREAS the availability of game is dependent on a complex set of fac-
11 tors, including adequate habitat, weather conditions, disease, and losses due
12 to hunting, trapping, and predation; and

13 WHEREAS, of all the factors affecting wildlife numbers, those most
14 readily controlled through wildlife management include hunting, trapping, and
15 predation; and

16 WHEREAS programs of the Department of Fish and Game have confirmed that
17 under specific circumstances depressed populations of moose, caribou, and
18 deer can benefit substantially from the reduction in number of specific
19 predatory species; and

20 WHEREAS under specific circumstances depressed prey populations may
21 require many years to reach moderate or high numbers unless hunting and
22 predator populations are reduced; and

23 WHEREAS hunting seasons and bag limits on moose and caribou have been
24 very conservative throughout the state in order to encourage population
25 growth of these species, but such growth has not necessarily ensued; and

26 WHEREAS the reduction in the number of predators in specific parts of
27 Alaska has resulted in increased populations of moose, caribou, and deer; and

28 WHEREAS increases in moose, caribou, and deer benefit all resource
29 users; and

1 WHEREAS it may be possible for the Department of Fish and Game to con-
2 ceive an effective predator control program involving the participation of
3 those members of the public most familiar with the game management subunit;

4 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
5 the Governor to recommend that the Department of Fish and Game continue
6 implementation of predator reduction programs in areas where depressed game
7 populations are unable to recover without such relief; and be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Fish and Game examine circum-
9 stances in additional areas where population manipulation may enhance oppor-
10 tunities for all wildlife user groups, and to develop plans and budgets
11 relating to game population enhancement programs for legislative considera-
12 tion; and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Fish and Game consider alterna-
14 tive predator management programs using hunters and trappers familiar with
15 the areas in which predator populations are sought to be reduced.

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