

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 446 (FINANCE)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 5/12/92

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES ULMER, Grussendorf, Koponen, G.Phillips

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the wildlife conservation tag and to entry onto state game and
2 wildlife sanctuaries, state game refuges, state range areas, and fish and game critical
3 habitat areas; and providing for an effective date."

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

5 * **Section 1. FINDINGS.** The legislature finds that

6 (1) the diversity of wildlife species in Alaska and the size of Alaska make wildlife
7 management extremely expensive;

8 (2) the growth in Alaska's human population has placed pressure upon wildlife habitat
9 and wildlife populations and has increased demand for use and appreciation of wildlife;

10 (3) the Board of Game and other resource management agencies need current, accurate
11 wildlife population and human use data for regulatory and planning purposes;

12 (4) the quality and extent of wildlife information provided by the Department of Fish and
13 Game have a direct effect on the types and levels of human use of wildlife that are allowed;

14 (5) the cause of wildlife conservation would benefit from money generated by a wildlife

1 conservation tag to supplement, but not to supplant, money available for wildlife conservation purposes
2 from other sources;

3 (6) programs that benefit nongame species of wildlife, threatened and endangered species
4 of wildlife, wildlife education, and wildlife viewing would be enhanced by money generated by a
5 wildlife conservation tag.

6 * Sec. 2. AS 16.05.350 is amended to read:

7 Sec. 16.05.350. EXPIRATION OF LICENSES AND TAGS. Licenses and tags required
8 under AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430, except biennial licenses, the nonresident special sport fishing
9 license, the resident trapping license, and the waterfowl conservation tag, expire at the close of
10 December 31 following issuance. Biennial licenses expire after December 31 of the year
11 following the year of issuance. The resident trapping license expires at the close of September
12 30 of the year following the year in which the license is issued. The waterfowl conservation tag
13 expires at the close of January 31 of the year following the year of issue of the tag. The wildlife
14 conservation tag under AS 16.05.828 expires at the close of December 31 following issuance.

15 * Sec. 3. AS 16.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

16 Sec. 16.05.828. WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TAG PROGRAM. (a) In order to
17 provide support for the wildlife conservation activities of the department, there is established the
18 wildlife conservation tag program.

19 (b) The commissioner shall provide a patch, emblem, decal, stamp, or other suitable item
20 to serve as a wildlife conservation tag. The wildlife conservation tag and proof of purchase of
21 a wildlife conservation tag shall be available through vendors of fish and game licenses.

22 (c) The commissioner shall establish the cost of a wildlife conservation tag by regulation.

23 (d) The proof of purchase of a wildlife conservation tag entitles the purchaser, after
24 complying with other applicable statutes and regulations, to

25 (1) apply, under terms and at locations established by the commissioner by
26 regulation, for a permit to enter an area identified by the commissioner by regulation where a
27 permit is required for entry into the area; and

28 (2) enter a state game or wildlife sanctuary, and as identified by the commissioner
29 by regulation, other land designated as a state game refuge, state range area, or fish and game
30 critical habitat area, where a permit is not required for entry into the area.

31 (e) The commissioner may designate by regulation those state game and wildlife

1 sanctuaries, state game refuges, state range areas, and fish and game critical habitat areas where
2 possession of a valid hunting license during open hunting seasons or of a subsistence hunting or
3 fishing permit that is valid for that location may substitute for a wildlife conservation tag.

4 (f) The revenue received from the sale of wildlife conservation tags may be appropriated
5 by the legislature to the department for programs that benefit nongame species of wildlife,
6 threatened and endangered species of wildlife, wildlife education, and wildlife viewing. In this
7 subsection,

8 (1) "nongame species" means a species of wildlife that may not be taken under
9 a hunting or trapping license; and

10 (2) "wildlife" means a species of bird, amphibian, reptile, or mammal, including
11 a feral domestic animal, found or introduced into the state, except domestic birds and mammals.

12 (g) The department may contract with a person to perform the responsibilities of the
13 department under this section to provide a wildlife conservation tag. Contracting under this
14 subsection is governed by AS 36.30 (State Procurement Code), except that a contract may include
15 provisions for advance payment or reimbursement for services performed under the contract.

16 * Sec. 4. AS 16.20.170 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

17 (b) A person, other than a person lawfully engaged in subsistence hunting or fishing, may
18 not enter the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary without having in the person's possession a
19 proof of purchase of a wildlife conservation tag.

20 * Sec. 5. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).