

SENATE BILL NO. 144

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS FRANK, Menard

Introduced: 2/27/91

Referred: L&C and Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act to establish the Alaska Fur Resources Conservation Commission; and providing
2 for an effective date."

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

4 * Section 1. FINDINGS AND INTENT. The legislature finds and declares that regulated trapping
5 of fur-bearing animals

6 (1) is consistent with constitutional mandates of conservation of wildlife resources for
7 common use on the sustained yield principle for the maximum benefit of the people;

8 (2) is an important economic activity that provides cash income to thousands of state
9 residents annually, and provides an essential alternative source of income to many people at times or in
10 places when ordinary employment opportunities are scarce or lacking;

11 (3) in addition to providing millions of dollars annually to trappers, supports a significant
12 cottage industry in the manufacture and sale of fur handicrafts and clothing that are used widely by
13 people living and working in the outdoors;

14 (4) is an ecologically sound, economically viable activity that is compatible with and

1 compliments the lifestyles of the many state residents who depend on renewable resources for all or part
2 of their livelihood;

3 (5) contributes to a fundamental understanding of the dependence of people on a
4 productive, functional environment for their well-being;

5 (6) is an endeavor threatened by the activities of individuals or groups who oppose the
6 use of wildlife by people or who oppose specific methods of capturing wildlife, such as, trapping; and

7 (7) is an endeavor that, if prohibited, would mean the loss of one of the few remaining
8 activities by which state residents can support themselves economically, maintain their resource
9 dependent lifestyles, maintain their self-respect as productive individuals, and convey to their children
10 the importance of using wisely the state's great renewable resources.

11 * Sec. 2. AS 44.33 is amended by adding new sections to read:

12 ARTICLE 7A. ALASKA FUR RESOURCES CONSERVATION COMMISSION.

13 Sec. 44.33.601. ALASKA FUR RESOURCES CONSERVATION COMMISSION
14 ESTABLISHED. (a) The Alaska Fur Resources Conservation Commission is established in the
15 Department of Commerce and Economic Development.

16 (b) The commission is composed of seven members, including

17 (1) the commissioner of commerce and economic development or the
18 commissioner's designee;

19 (2) the commissioner of fish and game or the commissioner's designee;

20 (3) three members who have at least five years experience as fur trappers in the
21 state;

22 (4) two members who have at least five years experience in the fur industry,
23 including experience as a fur buyer, fur retailer, or trapper in the state or a combination of
24 experience in the fur industry and in education or public relations in the state.

25 (c) Four members are a quorum.

26 (d) The members listed in (b)(3) and (4) of this section shall

27 (1) serve a staggered term of five years;

28 (2) serve at the pleasure of the governor; and

29 (3) serve without compensation, but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses
30 authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

31 Sec. 44.33.611. PURPOSE. The purpose of the commission is to

1 (1) educate the public of the state, the United States, and internationally about,
2 and to promote understanding of, the historical, ecological, and socioeconomic importance of the
3 use of fur-bearing animals;

4 (2) educate trappers on the benefits of trapline management and conservation,
5 proper pelt preparation, and fur handling techniques;

6 (3) ensure continued ethical and responsible use of fur-bearing animals as a
7 renewable resource; and

8 (4) ensure the perpetuation of the use of fur-bearing animals by the public
9 consistent with the constitution and state law.

10 Sec. 44.33.621. DUTIES AND POWERS. (a) The commission shall

11 (1) annually elect a chair from among its members;

12 (2) meet at least every four months and at such other times as called by the chair
13 or when requested by three of its members;

14 (3) establish and maintain promotion, information, education, and research
15 programs to accomplish its purposes and to develop, maintain, and expand state, national, and
16 foreign markets for fur produced in this state;

17 (4) annually report to the governor on the commission's activities, the
18 effectiveness of the activities, recommendations for changes in statutes, regulations, and
19 programs, and an assessment of the status of furbearer uses in the state; and

20 (5) propose an annual budget in accordance with AS 37.07 with technical
21 assistance of the Department of Commerce and Economic Development and the Department of
22 Fish and Game.

23 (b) The commission may

24 (1) employ an executive director to the extent that funds are appropriated for the
25 purpose; the executive director is in the partially exempt service under AS 39.25.120;

26 (2) accept grants, donations, and contributions from public and private persons
27 or entities to assist the commission in fulfilling its duties and purposes;

28 (3) contract with public or private persons or entities to perform its duties and
29 fulfill its purposes;

30 (4) conduct or contract for scientific research to discover and develop improved
31 methods for trapping of furbearers, care and handling of pelts, and programs of consumer education;

1 (5) study state and federal legislation with respect to tariffs, duties, reciprocal
2 trade agreements, quotas, and other matters concerning the fur industry;

3 (6) cooperate and participate in joint programs with local, state, national, and
4 international organizations engaged in work or programs similar of that of the commission.

5 Sec. 44.33.631. DEFINITION. In AS 44.33.601 - 44.33.631, "commission" means the
6 Alaska Fur Resources Conservation Commission.

7 * Sec. 3. AS 39.25.120(c)(9) is amended to read:

8 (9) the principal executive officer of the following boards, councils, or
9 commissions:

10 (A) Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission;

11 (B) Professional Teaching Practices Commission;

12 (C) Parole Board;

13 (D) Board of Nursing;

14 (E) Real Estate Commission;

15 (F) Alaska Royalty Oil and Gas Development Advisory Board;

16 (G) Alaska Historical Commission;

17 (H) Alaska State Council on the Arts;

18 (I) Alaska Police Standards Council;

19 (J) Older Alaskans Commission;

20 (K) Alaska Mental Health Board;

21 (L) State Medical Board;

22 (M) Alaska Fur Resources Conservation Commission;

23 * Sec. 4. AS 44.66.010(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

24 (20) Alaska Fur Resources Conservation Commission (AS 44.33.601) - June 30,
25 1996.

26 * Sec. 5. The initial members of the Alaska Fur Resources Conservation Commission appointed under
27 AS 44.33.601(b)(3) and (4), as added by sec. 2 of this Act, shall be appointed as provided in
28 AS 39.05.055(3).

29 * Sec. 6. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).