

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 216 (RESOURCES)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/27/92
Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): SENATORS SHULTZ, Frank

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act authorizing bison, moose, deer, and caribou farming and relating to game
2 farming."

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

4 * Section 1. AS 03.05.010(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) The commissioner of natural resources shall

6 (1) direct, administer, and supervise promotional and experimental work, extension
7 services, and agricultural projects for the purpose of promoting and developing the agricultural
8 industry within the state including such fields as horticulture, dairying, cattle raising, fur farming,
9 game farming, grain production, vegetable production, and development of other agricultural
10 products;

11 (2) procure and preserve all information pertaining to the development of the
12 agricultural industry and disseminate that information to the public;

13 (3) assist prospective settlers and others desiring to engage in the agricultural
14 industry in the state with information concerning areas suitable for agriculture and other activities

1 and programs essential to the development of the agricultural industry in the state;

2 (4) review the marketing, financing, and development of agricultural products
3 inside the state including transportation, with special emphasis upon local production, and
4 negotiate for the marketing of agricultural products of the state with federal and state agencies
5 operating in the state;

6 (5) regulate and control the entry into the state and the transportation, sale, or use
7 inside the state of plants, seeds, vegetables, shell eggs, fruits and berries, nursery stock, animal
8 feeds, remedies and mineral supplements, fertilizers, and agricultural chemicals in order to
9 prevent the spread of pests, diseases, or toxic substances injurious to the public interest, and to
10 protect the agricultural industry against fraud, deception, and misrepresentation; in this connection
11 the commissioner may require registration, inspection, and testing, and establish procedures and
12 fees; and

13 (6) regulate game [THE] farming [OF ELK], with the concurrence of the
14 commissioner of fish and game, in a manner similar to the manner in which the commissioner
15 regulates domestic animals and livestock, to the extent that is appropriate.

16 * Sec. 2. AS 03.05.011(b) is amended to read:

17 (b) The commissioner of environmental conservation, with the concurrence of the
18 commissioner of fish and game, shall regulate game [THE] farming [OF ELK] in a manner
19 similar to the manner in which the commissioner regulates domestic animals and livestock, to
20 the extent that is appropriate.

21 * Sec. 3. AS 03.25.010 is amended to read:

22 Sec. 03.25.010. COMMISSIONER AUTHORIZED TO EMPLOY VETERINARIANS.
23 The commissioner may either independently or in cooperation with the United States Department
24 of the Interior or a college or a university or like institution employ veterinarians for periods
25 found to be to the best advantage for the purpose of aid and service to the fur raising industry
26 and game farming industry, and for the purpose of aid and service to those engaged in raising
27 livestock and other domestic animals.

28 * Sec. 4. AS 03.25.020 is amended to read:

29 Sec. 03.25.020. DUTIES OF VETERINARIANS. Veterinarians shall

30 (1) visit the fur farms and game farms of the state, study problems incidental
31 to raising fur bearing animals and captive game animals and advise those engaged in the

1 industry in matters pertaining to the breeding and care of fur bearing animals and captive game
2 animals and the prevention and cure of diseases of fur bearing animals and captive game
3 animals;

4 (2) prepare, publish, and distribute such data as the veterinarian, with the advice
5 and consent of the commissioner, considers useful to those engaged in the industry;

6 (3) make reports to the commissioner when required by the commissioner for
7 transmittal to the state legislature;

8 (4) initiate and carry on experiments, on or in connection with a fur farm or game
9 farm, with relation to the care and feeding of fur bearing animals or captive game animals, the
10 improvements of the breed, or the cure or prevention of any disease to which they may be subject
11 or the extermination of the parasites by which they may be attacked, and in this connection
12 employ and pay for the necessary assistance and rent and use of necessary facilities;

13 (5) perform other duties as may be prescribed by the commissioner as are not
14 inconsistent with the duties specifically imposed by this chapter;

15 (6) study problems incidental to the raising of livestock and other domestic
16 animals, and advise those engaged therein upon matters pertaining to the breeding, care, and the
17 prevention and cure of diseases of livestock and other domestic animals.

18 * Sec. 5. AS 03.40.010 is amended to read:

19 Sec. 03.40.010. BRANDS AND MARKS. Any person owning cattle, reindeer, caribou,
20 buffalo, bison, musk ox, moose, deer, elk [MUSKOX,] sheep, horses, mules, or asses [,] may
21 adopt a brand or mark. After recording the brand or mark as provided in AS 03.40.030, the
22 person has the exclusive right to its use.

23 * Sec. 6. AS 03.40.050 is amended to read:

24 Sec. 03.40.050. USE WITHOUT CERTIFICATE PROHIBITED. A person may not
25 brand any horse, cattle, reindeer, caribou, buffalo, bison, musk ox, moose, deer, elk, [MUSK
26 OX] mule, or ass, unless the person using the brand holds a written certificate of acceptance from
27 the commissioner.

28 * Sec. 7. AS 16.40.010 is amended to read:

29 Sec. 16.40.010. DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS GAME ANIMALS [BUFFALO AND
30 MUSK OXEN]. Whenever it is determined by the department that a surplus [EXISTS IN THE
31 HERDS] of buffalo, bison, moose, deer, caribou, or [AND] musk oxen exists [UNDER ITS

1 CONTROL], the department may, under regulations adopted by it, grant the surplus or portions
2 of the surplus [IT] to persons, groups, associations, partnerships, or corporations for the purpose
3 of raising and breeding the animals as domestic stock for commercial purposes, or for scientific
4 and educational purposes. A person, group, association, partnership, or corporation may receive
5 animals only after proving to the satisfaction of the department

6 (1) intent to raise and breed the animals; [AND]

7 (2) possession of facilities for maintaining the animals under positive control
8 sufficient to prevent injury to animals or handlers; and

9 (3) the ability to

10 (A) manage the animals in a manner consistent with standards of good
11 animal husbandry;

12 (B) maintain the animals in good health;

13 (C) prevent and detect the spread of disease and parasites to wild
14 game;

15 (D) prevent and detect the spread of disease and parasites from
16 domestic animals to the captive game animals.

17 * Sec. 8. AS 16.40.010 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

18 (b) Buffalo, bison, moose, deer, caribou, or musk oxen imported, exported, or possessed
19 for the purpose of game farming are subject to the provisions of AS 03 relating to domestic
20 animals and livestock and to regulations adopted under those provisions, with the concurrence
21 of the commissioner of fish and game, by the commissioner of natural resources or the
22 commissioner of environmental conservation.

23 (c) The recipient of animals under (a) of this section shall

24 (1) brand or mark each animal received and the progeny of any animal received
25 with an appropriate mark, brand, or tattoo as approved by the commissioner of natural resources
26 under AS 03.40 and with a highly visible, numbered ear tag;

27 (2) register the animals received, other captive game animals however acquired,
28 and the progeny of those animals with the commissioner of fish and game, the Department of
29 Natural Resources, and the Department of Environmental Conservation within 30 days after the
30 animals are acquired;

31 (3) construct and maintain a fence that is adequate to prevent the escape of

1 captive game animals and to exclude wild game;

2 (4) establish and maintain a contractual relationship with a veterinarian to examine
3 all captive game animals semi-annually;

4 (5) notify the commissioner of fish and game of the birth, sale, slaughter, escape,
5 or death of captive game animals;

6 (6) provide at the recipient's costs for a complete necropsy by a veterinarian
7 approved by the commissioner of fish and game to determine the cause of death of all captive
8 game animals;

9 (7) notify the commissioner of fish and game within 24 hours after wild big game
10 enters a facility where captive game animals are present.

11 (d) The recipient of animals under (a) of this section may not raise captive game animals
12 and domestic livestock on the same facility.

13 * Sec. 9. AS 16.40.020 is amended to read:

14 Sec. 16.40.020. SALE OF MEAT. The sale of buffalo, bison, moose, deer, caribou,
15 or musk oxen meat resulting from the slaughter of animals obtained under AS 16.40.010, or their
16 offspring is authorized. The slaughter of animals and sale of meat authorized under this
17 section are subject to AS 03, regulations adopted under AS 03, and other applicable law.