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"An Act relating to sport fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses and fees; and providing for an effective date."

COMMITTEE REPORT

HOUSE

3/25/76

FINANCE

Mr. Speaker:

Date 4-13-76

The Committee on RESOURCES has had CS SSSB 335

under consideration. A Majority of the members of the Committee

recommends it DO PASS

recommends it DO NOT PASS

recommends it DO PASS WITH ATTACHED AMENDMENT(S)

recommends it BE REPLACED WITH CS FOR _____ AND THAT

CS FOR _____ DO PASS

"and" recommends it BE REFERRED TO THE _____

COMMITTEE

reports it back WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

"other"

Members signing the Majority report:

<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	_____
<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	_____
<u>MIKE HERSHBERGER</u>	_____	_____
<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	_____

Members NOT concurring in the Majority report:

_____ recommends:

_____ recommends:

_____ recommends:

_____ recommends:

_____ recommends:

[Signature] Chairman

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE:

By: House Resources Comm.

To: _____ HOUSE BILL No. _____

SENATE BILL No. CS SSB 335

PAGE: 3

LINE: 25/L

Change the effective date to
July 1, 1974

Walter Anderson, 4/13/76
Chairman House Resources

COALITION of INTERIOR ALASKA OUTDOORSMEN

P.O. Box 18
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99707

Affiliated Clubs:

Chena River Sports Club
Christina Dipnetter's Association
Fairbanks Trailblazers, Inc
Interior Alaska Trappers Association
Interior Wildlife Association
Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Association

300
#123
April 15, 1976

Dear Governor Hammond and Legislators,

Re: Senate Bill No. 335

The Coalition of Interior Alaska Outdoorsmen has previously stated their position on raising the cost of hunting and fishing licenses and big game tag fees. We now feel that it is time to better define and clarify this position.

Senate Bill 335 as passed by Senate drastically changes the license and tag fee structure. It is our understanding that over 85% of revenue generated by sales of licenses and tags comes from non-residents. Based on this information, we question how much will be gained by doubling the cost of resident sport fishing and hunting licenses. We believe fewer licenses will be sold, therefore decreasing any gain hoped to be achieved.

We believe that three other areas should be considered for additional revenue and to better distribute the cost burden to all those benefiting from fish and game management programs. These are as follows:

1. We do not believe that any valid reason exists today for a 25-cent license. If necessary, the welfare agency supporting the qualifying individual should pay the normal fee and thereby transfer these funds to the fish and game fund so federal matching monies could be received. In 1975, 5,004 25-cent licenses were sold. None of these funds went to the Dept. of Fish and Game. Since this 25-cent license allows the licensee to hunt, fish and trap it should be valued at \$15.00. Thus \$75,000.00 in possible revenues was not received by Fish and Game. When the 3 to 1 matching federal monies are added the total loss we actually \$300,000.00.
2. We believe that somewhere between one fifth and one third of the Dept. of Fish and Game's Sport Fishing and Game Division's activities are solely directed toward non-hunting and fishing activities. This is estimated to consume in excess of \$2,000,000.00 of Fish and Game funds. At the present time the hunter and fisherman pays the bill for these activities. We believe a better method would be to fund these activities from general funds and thus more equitably share the costs of all activities. A general fund appropriation of approximately \$600,000.00, along with matching federal funds, would total approximately \$2,000,000.00.
3. At the present time all revenue derived from trapping licenses goes directly to the general fund account. Fish and Game does not receive any of these monies, but provides all the management efforts. Again, the hunter and fisherman is paying the bill. We believe that these trapping funds should be sent directly to the Fish and Game account. This could then be matched by federal monies. Approximately 8,000 trapping licenses were sold in 1975. This amounts to \$24,000.00. Due to loss of federal matching funds, this resulted in a loss of \$100,000.00 to Fish and Game. We would support an increase of the resident trapping license to \$10.00 providing these funds go directly to Fish and Game. This could generate \$320,000.00 in additional revenue.

We are opposed to all resident big game tag fees. The cost of administering may well offset any additional revenue derived. This will also discourage hunting by residents and may effect sales in related outdoor activities. We believe this new fee area should be approached with great caution.

Items 1 through 3 above would require a general fund appropriation of \$600,000.00 and could generate as much as \$2,620,000.00 for Fish and Game management. This would be done without changing the present resident hunting and fishing license structure.

We have not taken a position on non-resident fee increases. The legal and social ramifications are such that we think it best to concentrate our efforts on this license and fee issue as it affects us as resident Alaskans.

Again we would like to suggest that public hearings on this matter be held in several areas of the State.

Sincerely



Ivan Thorall, Chairman

file
SB 335

rec'd
H/26

Frank W. Harris
610 W. Fireweed Lane
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Rep Nels Anderson
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: SB 33 5.

Dear Rep. Anderson,

Having just returned from a safari in Africa, I believe I have some familiarity with what is going on as to the charges being made in most African countries for hunting their more precious species of game.

In my opinion according to the scarcity of sheep in Alaska....I would compare it to a Bongo in the Sudan....where the permit is \$450.00--- \$300.00 for the license and an extra \$150.00 if you make a kill.

Also you could compare our walrus hunt as to scarcity with a lion or leopard, where in Africa the fee will be \$345.00 for a lion or a leopard.

I believe that your caribou fee as set at \$200.00 is slightly high, when compared to animals of the same frequency in Africa.

The Alaska non-resident deer license at \$25.00 however, seems right in line.

I've enclosed a special tourist license fee from the Sudan, which shows their prices are not cheap.

For instance...the Roan Antelope could be compared in scarcity with our moose.

Hope this is of some help.

Very truly yours,


Frank W. Harris

The Democratic Republic Of The Sudan
Department Of Wildlife Conservation & Tourism
Southern Region

Amended Charges Of Ordinary And Special Game Licences 1975/1976

Schedule (5)

SPECIAL LICENCE (TOURISTS)

Species	Number allowed	Licence	Shooting tax after killing each animal
Bongo	1	U. S. \$ 300	U. S. \$ 150
Situtunga	1	U. S. \$ 180	U. S. \$ 150
Nile Lechwe	1	U. S. \$ 300	U. S. \$ 150
Giant Eland	1	U. S. \$ 300	U. S. \$ 150
Oryx Belsa	1	U. S. \$ 240	U. S. \$ 150
Lion	1	U. S. \$ 195	U. S. \$ 150
Lesser Kudu	1	U. S. \$ 135	U. S. \$ 120
Leopard	1	U. S. \$ 195	U. S. \$ 150
Hippo	1	U. S. \$ 300	U. S. \$ 150
Giant Forest Hog	1	U. S. \$ 240	U. S. \$ 150
Crocodile	1	U. S. \$ 240	U. S. \$ 120
Yellow-Backed Duck	1	U. S. \$ 240	U. S. \$ 150
White Eared Cob	1	U. S. \$ 120	U. S. \$ 90
Roan Antelope	1	U. S. \$ 180	U. S. \$ 120
Elephant	1	U. S. \$ 60	Approx. U. S. \$ 12 per lb. weight of Ivory subject to Market price when Exported.

N. B.: 1) Wounded Elephant is counted on the licence and fine of U. S. \$ 3000 is collected as shooting tax.

2) Penalty fee for killing Elephant with tusks LESS than 15 Kgs.
U. S. \$ 1500.

3) Immature Bongo is not allowed (this concerns Males). Penalty fee for killing any male Bongo with horn length less than 18 inches (45 cm)
U. S. \$ 600.

4) Female Bongo is not allowed. Penalty fee for killing female Bongo
U. S. \$ 900.

5) Wounded Giant Eland is counted on the licence. Fine of U. S. \$ 600 is collected as shooting tax.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

POUCH S - JUNEAU 99811

March 26, 1976

The Honorable Nels Anderson
Chairman
House Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Anderson:

re Committee Substitute for Sponsor Substitute
for Senate Bill No. 335

Committee Substitute for Sponsor Substitute for Senate Bill No. 335 was introduced in the House on March 25, 1976 and was referred to the House Resources and Finance Committees.

For the consideration of the House Resources Committee, I am enclosing a copy of a Fiscal Note and accompanying schedules advising of estimated revenue and administrative costs of the proposed legislation, prepared by R. H. Pilcher, Manager, Juneau Field Office, Department of Revenue.

If you or any members of the House Resources Committee have any questions on the material submitted, please telephone the writer at 465-2397 and I will contact Mr. Pilcher for further information or testimony at a hearing.

Very truly yours,



R. D. Stevenson
Special Assistant

cc: The Honorable Hugh Malone
Chairman
House Finance Committee

R. H. Pilcher, Manager
Juneau Field Office
Department of Revenue

MEMORANDUM

TO: R. D. Stevenson
Special Assistant
Department of Revenue

DATE: March 22, 1976

FROM: R. H. Pilcher
Manager
Juneau Field Office

SUBJECT: Committee Substitute for Sponsor
Substitute for SB 335

Passage of committee substitute for Sponsor Substitute for SB 335 will:

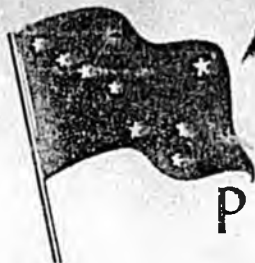
1. Increase certain sport fishing and hunting license fees for both residents and non-residents.
2. Increase certain tag fees for non-residents.
3. Require tags for residents to hunt five species of game effective January 1, 1977.

EFFECT ON TREASURY

Based on calendar year 1975 actual license and tag sales and on the sale of approximately 14,150 resident tags, passage of this bill will result in a dollar revenue increase of approximately \$2,191,390.00 for distribution to the various funds in calendar year 1977. (See attached breakdown of revenue estimates.)

The additional work load involved in the distribution and sales of resident game tags, plus auditing reports and accounting for the added revenues will require the addition of one Accounting Clerk II position to the BRU's work force. (See Fiscal note attached.)

The January 1, 1977 effective date for this sponsor substitute bill eliminates problems of administration encountered with the original SB 335.



Alaska

Professional Hunters Association, Inc.

P. O. BOX 4-1932
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99509

Phone (907) 279-7837
or (907) 344-5482

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- GEORGE PALMER
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- DARRELL FARMEN
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House Finance Committee
Nels Anderson
Juneau, Alaska

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Anchorage

Subject; Proposed non-resident tag fee increase.

Many thousands of dollars are spent by the the State promoting tourism in Alaska in magazines and in papers in the lower 48. It seems inconsistent to me that on the one hand we want tourism and on the other hand we reject it by making it too expensive for the lower income tourist that come to Alaska - and when I say tourist I also mean hunter.

There seems to be a misconception to what a tag fee is. Many people seem to think that a tag fee is the price of an animal. This is not true. A hunter must buy a tag for the privilege of hunting the animal. This tag does not mean that he is buying or getting the animal, but only the right to hunt it.

Many other expenses are involved besides the tag fee in a guided or non-guided hunt. Airlines, hotels, resturants, sporting-goods stores, air taxi operators, etc. Everyone benefits when we have this type of tourist up here.

The hunting tourist leaves much more money in Alaska, than the person that comes up to look around and take a few pictures.

Another point that we might consider is that when we increase the tag fee as the proposed legislation would do, we are only restricting those people from the lower income brackets that can not afford this type of increase. It is not going to restrict or stop the very monied hunter that wants a



PLEGGED FAIR CHASE

guided hunt, from coming up here. We will have less hunters, and it will not effect the majority of guides, but it will affect the hotels, resturants and all the other businesses that depend upon tourists.

If the purpose of this legislation is to reduce the number of hunters that come to Alaska, then we are accomplishing this, but I would like to make a suggestion. If what you really want is to reduce the number of hunters that come to our state, then the best way to do it is to require that all hunters must have the services of a guide, before they can hunt in Alaska. Because of the high price of the guided hunts this would materially reduce the number of people that come from the states and other countries to hunt Alaska. I do not say this to benefit the guides because that would have very little effect on them. The people that come for a guided hunt have the money to do so, but it would stop a number of hunters who are in the lower income bracket and can not afford the services of a guide.

Many thousand of hunters come to Alaska and hunt moose, caribou black bear and goat on their own, because a guide is not required. Their success is not that great, but they do spend much with the charter boat operators, air taxies, roadhouses, etc. Less hunters means less business and therefore less taxes for the state.

What I am saying is that the proposed increase is not going to drasticially effect the guided hunts in Alaska, but it will effect the other small businesses that depend on tourism to quite some extent.

If you recall in 1973 after the last price increase in tags the number of non-resident hunters purchasing tags dropped from 11000 approx. to 8000. I have no idea what the drop would be now after this proposed increase, but I am sure it would be substantial.

On a 16 or 18 day hunt, most guided hunters normally buy 5 tags and in the past has amounted to \$525.00. On a hunt of this type he expects to take three trophies and the other tags are just in case he has a chance at additional game.

If this increase goes into effect we may look forward to a hunter buying only three tags for \$600.00 instead of five tags for \$1000.00 The revenue to the state would be increased by \$75.00, but with a substantial decrease in the number of hunters it seems to me that in the long run the state will come out on the short end, when we consider reduced taxes from small businesses, reduced income from Airlines and the state ferry system.

We all should in the future think of the hunter as a tourist,

and every time a piece of legislation comes up partaining to hunters, to try to think of them as tourists first and hunters second. The hunter is one of Alaska's greatest tourist. They have contributed much to the state and businesses, almost everyone benefits from these hunters that come up here. When the pipeline boom is over we are going to be left with an ecconomy that is based on tourism and some commerical fishing operations. Alaska has no industries as such and our dependence on the tourist is very great for all businesses, not just the guiding business, BUT ALL BUSINESSES.

Thank you for taking the time to read this as I know you are all very busy people.

Stan Frost
President A.P.H.A. Inc.

COMMITTEE REPORT

CS SS
SB 335

HOUSE RESOURCE COMMITTEE

In reporting out CS SS SB 335 the committee has changed the effective date of this act.

It is the intent of the committee that no fee collected before the effective date of this act will reflect the increases appearing in the bill but, that all licenses and tags purchased after the effective date of this act will reflect the increases.

Nels A. Anderson, Jr., Chairman



ALASKANS FOR TRAVEL, INC.

P. O. Box 1479 • Anchorage, Alaska 99510 • (907) 276-7818

April 8, 1976

The Honorable Nels A. Anderson, Chairman
House Resources Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Anderson:

We are writing to you today in regards to Senate Bill 335, or any substitute bill that is now being given consideration. This bill deals with hunting and fishing license fees. In particular, we are concerned with the impact the proposed increase in these fees may have upon the Alaska visitor industry. We are also concerned with fishing license fees as they relate to the visitor.

Certainly the AFT is not now, nor do we have the capability of, becoming experts in the field of game management and the costs related thereto. However, we do feel that it is necessary to point out that the substantial increases in license fees and game tags, as this bill suggests, may have a detrimental effect upon sportsmen coming to Alaska for the purpose of hunting big game.

In the fishing license fees we recognize the need for proper management, the costs that are related to that management, and the federal revenues that accrue to the State in this area of fees collected. However, we would call to your attention that with the proposed changes the minimum fishing license fee for a nonresident would be \$15.00. Our Alaskan visitor traffic has a great number of people who are in the State for only a few days and frequently their wilderness and/or fishing experience potential is limited to a matter of hours.

I am speaking of such visitors as those that arrive and return on the cruise ships, the air package travelers that visit the Anchorage gateway area and have an opportunity for a half or full day of fishing in the Southcentral Region, and the substantial number of visitors that are here for commercial purposes and spend an extra day in Alaska for their own personal "R & R". Many of these people would like to fish from a few hours to a full day.

April 8, 1976

When they are currently advised that the minimum license fee is \$10.00 they feel they are being "ripped-off" by Alaska. The State of Alaska and the unfortunate individual that has to inform them of the required \$10.00 license (\$15.00 in the new bill) to fish for a few hours is made to appear in less than a favorable light. This problem is accentuated by the fact that many of our visitors come from other coastal states where there are no fishing licenses required for salt water angling. We lose many potential short term fishermen because of this license fee. I might add most of them catch few fish due to the short time period and their lack of fishing experience.

The Alaska travel industry has suggested many times in the past, and we would suggest once again, that the legislature give consideration to a one day visitor fishing license. With the \$15.00 fee that you are considering, we suggest it would be appropriate for that one day license to be \$5.00. It would also help the circumstance if that license was issued in the form of an inexpensive certificate. This could help make the visitors happy, even if they failed to catch a fish, and consequently they and their friends may return another time and leave another cash deposit in our State.

The Alaska State Department of Fish and Game has, in the past, expressed concern that this one day license would adversely affect the sales of the 10 day (\$10.00) visitor fishing licenses. While to a small degree this may be the case, it is our firm conviction that what we are talking about is providing, at an acceptable price, a fishing license to those individuals that refuse to pay the price (\$10.00) now required. Many visitors will elect not to fish for the few hours they have available if they are going to be charged \$10.00 (or \$15.00 as proposed) for the privilege of doing so. The State loses potential license fee revenue and our sports fishing business loses potential customers.

There are many charter boats available, particularly in Southeast Alaska, for one-half or one day fishing excursions. At \$15.00 per individual for a license for a half day's fishing, the cost of the license would equal 50% of the cost of chartering a boat for a party of five people.

In determining the price of the one day fishing license, we believe it appropriate and necessary that the one day license fee be set at a price of approximately 1/3 of the ten day license fee. This would provide a safeguard to avoid individuals buying a series of licenses to keep their license fee below that of the ten day fee. Most professional sports fishermen and/or fishing parties that go into lodges fish four to five days or perhaps a week. They would not be interested in purchasing a one day fishing license.

The Honorable Nels Anderson

-3-

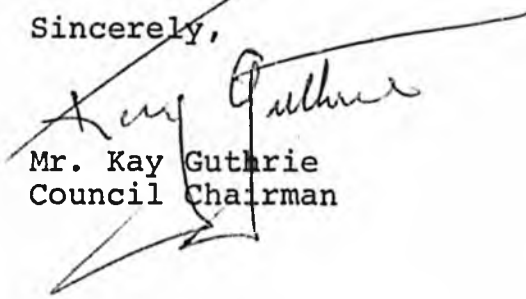
April 8, 1976

There are several other administrative features, simple but effective, that could be used to avoid any complication or abuses to this license. Also, this license would generate new revenue for the State.

Business members in the Alaskan travel community would be pleased to work with the Department of Fish and Game to assure that this program is properly designed and implemented.

Thank you very much for your consideration in regards to this issue.

Sincerely,



Mr. Kay Guthrie
Council Chairman

cc: James W. Brooks, Commissioner
Department of Fish and Game

Rupert E. Andrews, Director
Division of Sport Fish

House Resources Committee Members

KWG:bf

File
SB 335

4-8-76
Mora, Minn.

Alaska State Representative
Nels Anderson, Jr.

This letter is in reference to a recently Senate passed State license fee raise. As a non-resident it looks as though some in the Senate only want to have some kind of a rich man's hunting grounds. For a few years (4 or 5) I have been coming to your state to visit & while there I have either been fishing & hunting or just one but the cost I thought was considerable but I enjoyed it. Senator Poland seems to think you have been almost giving your game away. I don't know what states he has been checking on but I do know it couldn't have been in the

midwest. Our State of Minn.
just raised our fees in
the past ~~few~~ few days and our
non-resident deer hunting fee
went from ^{\$}50⁰⁰ to ^{\$}62⁵⁰ and
that includes the tag. Non-resident
fishing will be 10⁰⁰ for individual
or 15⁰⁰ combination man & wife.

All non-residents know that
it is going to cost them some more
but we all spend quite a bit
I decided these fees in each others
states. In the past there has been
talk of federal licenses & it is
just type of fees your senate
has passed that may someday
make it happen. Don't price
the little guy out of your hunting
& fishing.

Thank You
Wm Washburn
607 W. Forest Ave.
Mora, Minn., 55051