

HB

599

(9)

# COMMITTEE REPORT

## HOUSE

1/23/80

FURTHER:

Date: 1/23/80

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on RESOURCES has had HR 599  
"An Act relating to ox and buffalo."

under consideration and (a majority of the committee) (the committee) reports it back with the following recommendations:

- do pass  do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for HR 599  same title  
 new title
- and recommends \_\_\_\_\_
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent"  New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without recommendation
- referred to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING  
DO PASS

MEMBERS HAVING  
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

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\_\_\_\_\_

CHAIRMAN



# Alaska State Legislature

## House

HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

FISH & GAME ISSUES

Alvin Osterback, Chairman

Pouch V, State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
(907) 465-3715

### HEARING NOTIFICATIONS

BILL	DATE INFORMED	LETTER/PHONE	INFORMED	HEARING DATE
HB599	1/25	3727	Rep. Carney, Chrman Ag. sub-committee (Sponsor)	1/29/80
	1/25	<sup>745-</sup> 3236	State Div. of Agriculture	1/29/80
	1/25	272-9225	Oomingmak (Musk Ox cooperative)	1/29
	1/25	624-3822	Unalakleet Native Corp	1/29
	1/25	624-3891	Unalakleet Musk Ox Farm	1/29
	1/25	4110	Division of Game - Ron Somerville	1/29
	1/25	278-3537	Alaska Bison - Musk Ox Assn. (Bob Courtney)	1/29
	1/25	658-1238	Koyukon Native Corp. (Jim Farnor)	1/29
	1/25	<sup>206-</sup> 842-4849	John Teal, Dir. of INAR	1/29
	2/1	3727	Rep. Carney	2/7
	2/1	4100	Fish & Game Dept.	2/7

AGO 125393

Hearing 1/31/80: Tabled until special committee  
appointed to come up with CS comes  
up with it (Carney, Cotton, Chatterton)

2/7/80: Reported out w/ unanimous DO PASS  
as CS HB 599 with new title

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. HB 599  
Title An Act relating to musk ox and buffalo  
Requested by \_\_\_\_\_ Date 1/28/80

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected Department of Fish and Game  
Program Category Affected Natural Resources Management  
BRU, Program, or Subprogram(s) Affected Division of Game and Boards of Fish and Game  
(Note: If more than one budget component is affected, separate line-item amounts and funding for each component in the analysis section.)

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 80	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify Fund Source)						
Fish and Game Fund		(29.0)	(29.0)	(29.0)	(29.0)	(29.0)

POSITIONS

FULL TIME		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART TIME						
TEMPORARY						

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instructions, Section III)

This Act would eliminate the sale of musk oxen tags. Based on current tag sale information, this would reduce revenue to the Fish and Game Fund by \$29,000.00.

<u>Detail</u>	<u>No. Tags</u>	<u>Price Each</u>	<u>\$Total</u>
resident	18	\$500	9,000
nonresident	20	\$1,000	20,000
			<u>29,000</u>

IV. DATE 1-29-80 PREPARED BY [Signature]  
AGENCY Department of Fish and Game  
PHONE 465-4120  
Original Legislative Finance  
cc Budget and Management  
Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named)

Kat moved to adopt CS 599

Mr. Farmer from Galena testified

Bob Hinman - Dept. pleased

w/ this CS - protects those who  
own domestic animals & reduced

workload on F&G. But questioned

term "lawfully possessed" - how would

this affect animals which F&G

gives scientific permits, etc. for.

Hinman wants "lawfully owned & possessed"

Carney moved to amend w/ lawfully owned  
rather than possessed

STATE OF ALASKA  
Inter Department Route Slip

TO:  
MAIL STATION NUMBER 3100  
DEPARTMENT Regulations  
ATTENTION Bill Miles

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approval      | <input type="checkbox"/> Note & Return       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signature     | <input type="checkbox"/> Initial & Return    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comment       | <input type="checkbox"/> Return As Requested |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contact Me    | <input type="checkbox"/> Return For Approval |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Reply | <input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Your File | <input type="checkbox"/> Your Information    |

Remarks:

FROM:  
MAIL STATION NUMBER 1100  
DEPARTMENT Fish + Game  
BY Reavis DATE 3/27

RECEIVED  
MAR - 7 1980

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

HB 599

Miles

Billy Lowe  
Delta Jet  
Alaska 99737

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE  
RECEIVED  
MAR 11 1980

Dear Sir:

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

By unanimous vote, Fish and Game Advisory Board for Delta Junction, disapproved the passage of House Bill 599.

Reference: Buffalo

We believe Fish and Game has performed in an admirable fashion with the resources available. Some of the comments about the sustained yield of other Buffalo herds are gained only through intense management and improved grazing. We feel if domestic Buffalo are released free ranging in the Delta area there will be intermingling of the herds and it will exceed the carrying capacity of the herds.

Billy W. Lowe

# STATE OF ALASKA

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

SUPPORT BUILDING  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

March 27, 1980

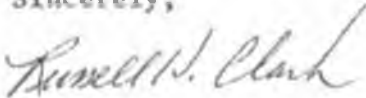
Mr. Billy W. Lowe  
Delta Advisory Committee  
Mile 1380  
Delta Junction, Alaska 99737

Dear Mr. Lowe:

Thank you for the copy of your note to the Governor's Office regarding HB 599. We in the Department, especially the Game Division and the Board of Game, appreciate your support of our past management practices for the Delta bison herd. The concerns which your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee voiced are appropriate for consideration by the Legislature. Consequently, I have taken the liberty of forwarding your letter to the Resources Committee of the House and the Senate. Additionally, I have enclosed a draft letter of intent scheduled for introduction on the floor of the House when HB 568 is considered.

Again, let me repeat my personal thanks to the people of the Delta area for their strong support for maintaining the integrity of the wild, free-roaming buffalo.

Sincerely,



*for* Ronald O. Skoog  
Commissioner

Enclosure

74  
Janson

Original sponsor: Special Agriculture Committee

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 599

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the authority of the Board of Game  
7 and the Department of Fish and Game over domestic  
8 animals."

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

10 \* Section 1. AS 16.05.940 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

11 (28) "domestic ~~birds~~ and mammals" includes musk oxen, bison  
12 and reindeer, if they are lawfully <sup>owned</sup> ~~possessed~~ by a person and they are  
13 used for domestic purposes, including but not limited to, agricultural  
14 work, food, or production of clothing materials.

15  
16  
17  
18  
19 Ch + moves to delete "birds"

20  
21 Pat moves to report bill out  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29

STATE OF ALASKA  
Inter-Department Route Slip

TO:  
MAIL STATION NUMBER 3110  
DEPARTMENT Administration  
ATTENTION William Osterback

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approval      | <input type="checkbox"/> Note & Return       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signature     | <input type="checkbox"/> Initial & Return    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comment       | <input type="checkbox"/> Return As Requested |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contact Me    | <input type="checkbox"/> Return For Approval |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Reply | <input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Your File | <input type="checkbox"/> Your Information    |

Remarks:

FROM:  
MAIL STATION NUMBER 3110  
DEPARTMENT Fish & Game  
BY Frank DATE 5/21

Osterback

RECEIVED  
MAR - 7 1980

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Sully Lowe  
Delta Jet  
Alaska 99737

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

RECEIVED

MAR 11 1980

Dear Sir:

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

By unanimous vote, Fish and Game Advisory Board for Delta Junction disapproved the passage of House Bill 699.

Reference: Buffalo

We believe Fish and Game has performed in an admirable fashion with all resources available. Some of the comments about the maintenance and yield of other Buffalo herds are gained only through extreme management and improved range. We feel if the water Buffalo are released free ranging in the Delta area there will be an increasing of the herds and it will exceed the carrying capacity of the herds.

Sully Lowe

# STATE OF ALASKA

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

SUPPORT BUILDING  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

March 27, 1980

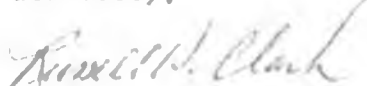
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Delta Advisory Committee  
Mile 1380  
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Again, let me repeat my personal thanks to the people of the Delta area for their strong support for maintaining the integrity of the wild, free-roaming buffalo.

Sincerely,



Ronald O. Skoog  
Commissioner

Enclosure

TESTIMONY TO HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
ON HB 599

GREGORY F. COOK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
BOARDS OF FISHERIES AND GAME  
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
FEBRUARY 4, 1980

THE ALASKA BOARD OF GAME ENCOURAGES PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS TO RAISE EITHER MUSKOXEN, REINDEER, OR BISON FOR PRIVATE USES, SUCH AS LIVESTOCK. TO FACILITATE THIS, THE BOARD HAS PASSED REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT AS 16.40.010 (THE "SURPLUS ANIMALS" LAW). SIMILARLY, THE DEPARTMENT HAS ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES FOR IMPORTING ANIMALS INTO ALASKA SUCH AS BISON OR REINDEER. THESE EXISTING PROCEDURES ARE TODAY BEING USED SUCCESSFULLY. FOR EXAMPLE, THESE PEOPLE NOW HAVE PERMITS:

- A) MR. BURTON, KODIAK - 100 BISON
- B) MR. WOELKERS, SEWARD - 5 BISON
- C) PUBLIC SCHOOL, SOLDOTNA - 3 BISON

THERE IS NO LEGAL IMPEDIMENT TO PRIVATE PERSONS OBTAINING AND IMPORTING ANIMALS.

THE BOARD AND THE DEPARTMENT SHARE A COMMON CONCERN: CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES. OUR CONCERN DERIVES FROM THE SAME SOURCE: THE ALASKA CONSTITUTION. BECAUSE OF OUR STATE CONSTITUTION, THE BOARD AND THE DEPARTMENT ARE DUTY-BOUND TO SEE THAT EXISTING WILDLIFE RESOURCES-- THE ANIMALS THEMSELVES AND THE HABITAT THEY DEPEND UPON FOR SURVIVAL-- CONTINUE IN PERPETUITY.

IN 1979, THE BOARD OF GAME HELD A SERIES OF THREE PUBLIC HEARINGS TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT DISPOSITION OF WILD, ALASKAN BISON INTO PRIVATE

HANDS WOULD BE ADVISABLE. THE OVERWHELMING PUBLIC RESPONSE (OVER 200 PEOPLE TESTIFIED) WAS NOT KEEP THE DELTA BISON AS A WILD, FREE-ROAMING HERD. ANY "SURPLUS" SHOULD BE KEPT FOR THE ENTIRE PUBLIC, NOT PRIVATE PARTIES.

THE BOARD OF GAME HAS HONORED THIS EXPRESSION OF PUBLIC WILL. BASED ON THE LARGE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS FOR HUNTING LICENSES, AND THE LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ENJOY USES OF THE BISON THAT DO NOT INVOLVE TAKING (SUCH AS VIEWING, PHOTOGRAPHY, ETC.), THE BOARD DID NOT DECLARE ANY BISON "SURPLUS" AND DID NOT TRANSFER ANY BISON INTO PRIVATE OWNERSHIP. INSTEAD, THE BOARD IS ENCOURAGING PRIVATE PARTIES TO PURCHASE BISON ON THE OPEN MARKET IF THEY WANT DOMESTIC ANIMALS. AS THE PUBLIC STATED, WILD HERDS SHOULD BE KEPT WILD FOR THE USE OF ALL ALASKANS.

IN SUMMARY, I WISH TO STRESS TWO THINGS:

1. THE BOARD DOES NOT OPPOSE RAISING BISON, REINDEER, OR MUSKOXEN PRIVATELY;
2. THE BOARD STRONGLY ENCOURAGES THE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT THE WILD HERDS OF BISON, MUSKOXEN, AND CARIBOU FOR THEIR UNIQUE VALUES TO THE ENTIRE PUBLIC. ALASKA'S WILD HERDS OF BISON AND MUSKOXEN ARE SMALL AND THEY NEED YOUR PROTECTION.

Telephone discusssion with Mr. Wendell Jackson, South Dakota Department of Fish, Game, and Parks, Division of Custer State Park, January 31, 1980.

The Custer State Park encompasses 73,000 acres. Because of its size it warrants a separate division within the Department of Fish, Game, and Parks. In the park are free ranging, managed herds of elk, sheep, and bison. The bison are the primary source of income and this income is used to fund the Custer State Park Division (it pays almost all administrative costs).

There are approximately 1400 head of bison in the park. They graze over an area of 25,000 acres and are rounded up once each year to vaccinate for brucellosis. Hunting permits are issued for the mature bulls (over 3 years old, the bulk are 4-10 years) for \$1250.00. These permits are open to anyone, resident or not, and the average is 10 to 15 permits per year. The herd is decreased to 950 head annually, through hunting and auctioning. Of the 400 head which are auctioned, 200 are calves, the remainder being yearlings or two year olds. The average auction price is \$603.00. The principal source of income for the park is from this auction. 500 of the remaining 950 head are mature cows. There are concessions and a motel in the park and a few bison are slaughtered annually to provide meat for these services. The bison are classified as "domestic" (as they are in all states Mr. Jackson was familiar with) but they are "treated same as domestic stock with health requirements".

The elk are hunted only by permit. There are 170 permits issued

per year and 70% of the hunters issued permits get their game.  
Elk were slaughtered by the state in the past but issuing  
hunting permits seems to be a better method.

By Kelly Fike, Aide  
Special Agriculture Committee