

HCR

51

To: House Resources Committee Members
From: Committee Staff
Date: February 26, 1984
Re: CS for HCR 51

The proposed CS for HCR 51 makes only two basic changes in the bill, as follows:

1. It incorporates the change approved by the committee on February 20, by adding, on page 2, line 7 "two members representing the adjacent residential areas to be affected by development of the Delta Junction Bison Range", and the related change on page 1, line 27, from "seven-member" to "nine-member";
2. It deletes all references to the bison drift barrier, found in the original bill on page 1, lines 26 -29, and on page 2, lines 15 - 17, which reads "and the construction and maintenance of a bison drift barrier along the southern boundary of the Delta agricultural project;"

The deletion of the bison drift barrier reflects the present form of HB 552, where the appropriation for the fence was amended out. Further, the prime sponsor feels that to say in the resolution where the fence would be built is inappropriate.

Alaska State Legislature

COMMITTEES

Co-Chairman — House Resources
Committee
Chairman — REAA Budget Oversight
Committee
Member — House State Affairs
DOT — Finance Sub Committee



House of Representatives

Dick Shultz

While in Session:

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M E M O R A N D U M

Date: February 16, 1984

To: Representative Ringstad

From: Representative Shultz *DS*

Subject: HCR 51

In my District teleconference last night, I received a lot of testimony concerning the Bison Range Advisory Committee which is discussed in HCR 51. Most of this testimony came from people who live in the immediate area of the Bison Range, but who are not farmers. Because the development of the range would have an affect on them, they feel that they should be represented on the committee.

Therefore, I have prepared the following possible amendment to HCR 51 for the review of the Resources Committee:

Page 2, Line 10: Add "(6) two members representing the immediate residential area to be impacted by development of the bison range;"

*Adopted w/o
objection*

Proposed amendment to HCR 51

Page 2, line 10: Insert the following:

(6) two members representing the immediate residential area
to be impacted by development of the bison range;

Page 2, line 2: Delete "SEVEN-MEMBER" and replace with nine-member

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Dick Shultz

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 16, 1984

To: Representative Ringstad

From: Representative Shultz

Subject: HCR 51

In my District teleconference last night, I received a lot of testimony concerning the Bison Range Advisory Committee which is discussed in HCR 51. Most of this testimony came from people who live in the immediate area of the Bison Range, but who are not farmers. Because the development of the range would have an affect on them, they feel that they should be represented on the committee.

Therefore, I have prepared the following possible amendment to HCR 51 for the review of the Resources Committee:

Page 2, Line 10: Add "(6) two members representing the immediate residential area to be impacted by development of the bison range;"

page 2, Line 2: Add nine
Delete [seven]

New

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY S. JLTZ

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the appointment of a Delta
6 Junction bison range advisory committee.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 WHEREAS the Delta Junction bison herd is a highly valued state wild-
9 life resource; and

10 WHEREAS drawing permits issued for the hunting of Delta Junction bison
11 constitute a valuable source of state revenue; and

12 WHEREAS the Delta Junction bison herd has established the Delta agri-
13 cultural project as a fall and winter range; and

14 WHEREAS the feeding, wallowing, and traveling by the Delta Junction
15 bison herd within the Delta agricultural project has resulted in damage to
16 crops, monetary loss to local farmers, legal conflicts, and physical harm
17 to the herd; and

18 WHEREAS the bison range concept is a proven means of keeping bison in
19 an area as long as adequate forage is available on the range; and

20 WHEREAS the current state of development of the Delta Junction bison
21 range area is inadequate to sustain bison for more than a few weeks; and

22 WHEREAS the expansion of available forage on the Delta Junction bison
23 range area is required to provide a winter range for the Delta Junction
24 bison herd and to effectively keep the herd from grazing within the Delta
25 agricultural project; and

26 WHEREAS a bison drift barrier must be constructed along the southern
27 boundary of the Delta agricultural project to prevent the Delta Junction
28 bison herd from drifting onto the project and causing further harm to
29 crops;

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the governor is
2 requested to appoint a ⁹~~seven~~-member Delta Junction Bison Range Advisory
3 Committee with members representing the following interests:

4 (1) two members representing the Delta agricultural project;

5 (2) two members representing Delta Junction sport hunters and
6 the state fish and game advisory committee;

7 (3) one member representing nonconsumptive wildlife users;

8 (4) one member representing timber, mining and other consumptive
9 natural resource industries; and

10 (5) one member representing the tourism industry; and be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor is requested to provide that the
12 committee shall consult with and offer its advice to the Department of Fish
13 and Game, the Department of Commerce and Economic Development, and the
14 Alaska Agricultural Action Council, on matters relating to the game manage-
15 ment plan required under AS 16.20.310 and the construction and maintenance
16 of a bison drift barrier along the southern boundary of the Delta agricul-
17 tural project; and to provide that a member of the advisory committee is
18 not entitled to per diem, travel, or other compensation from the state for
19 the performance of acts as a committee member.
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BACKGROUND

HCR 51

"Relating to the appointment of a Delta Junction bison range advisory committee."

In the late summer of 1983, a group of Delta Junction area residents began meeting in efforts to find a solution to the continuing problem of the Delta bison herd and the detrimental effect of growth in the Delta area on the herd. Most Alaskans are well aware of the problem in that bison have been shot by farmers and a virtual range war has been going on almost since the beginning of the Delta agricultural project in 1979.

This group, which called itself the "Delta AdHoc Committee", was comprised of farmers, business and community leaders, the timber industry, the Delta Chamber of Commerce, the City of Delta Junction, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Soil Conservation District, the Deltana Corporation, the Cooperative Extension Service, the Alaska Agricultural Action Council and the Delta Sportsmen's Association. Their goal was to find a compromise solution to the ongoing problem and establish an atmosphere where the bison herd, sport hunting, agriculture, tourism, and other community interests could co-exist.

When HB 551 was introduced, it included a provision that the Governor establish a Delta Junction bison range advisory committee. The goal of this provision was to establish a replacement for the AdHoc Committee and give it the necessary clout to assure that the bison range was properly completed and managed. In subsequent discussions with the administration, it was determined that the Governor did not wish to have the legislature dictate the establishment of ANY new boards, commissions or committees. With this in mind, Representative Shultz recommended to the House Resources Committee that the Advisory Committee be deleted from HB 551 and he subsequently introduced HCR 51.

An important provision in HCR 51 states that "a member of the advisory committee is NOT entitled to per diem, travel, or other compensation from the state for the performance of acts as a committee member."

HCR 51 will convey to the Governor the Legislature's intent to lend credibility to the AdHoc Committee and assure that the bison range is completed and operated in a manner which will assure a healthy atmosphere for all concerned, including the bison.