

HB

166

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

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JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
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May, 1986

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Jeanie Henry

SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE, 5/1/85, 3:40

Alaska State Legislature

ARLISS STURGULEWSKI, Chairman
BETTYE FAHRENKAMP, Vice Chairman
JACK COGHILL
DICK ELIASON
VIC FISCHER
RICK HALFORD
FRED ZHAROFF



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JUNEAU, ALASKA. 99811
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Senate Committee on Resources

MEMORANDUM

May 3, 1985

TO: All Members
Senate Resources Committee

FROM: Staff *A*
Senate Resources Committee

RE: HB 166 "An Act making a special appropriation to the Department of Fish and Game; and providing for an effective date."

HB 166 would appropriate \$50,000 for the transportation of elk from Afognak Island to Zarembo Island as authorized by SSHB 165.

HB 166 passed the House by a vote of 24 yea and 15 nay.

Enclosure:

1. Bill analysis and fiscal note by the Department of Fish and Game



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
BILL ANALYSIS

DEPARTMENT Fish and Game	DIVISION Game	BILL NUMBER SSHB 165	SPONSOR Taylor-Sund
DEPARTMENT POSITION Neutral			
PREPARED BY Robert Hinman	DATE 4/17/85	COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURE <i>Orville Nelson</i>	DATE 4/17/85

SUMMARY

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED BY BILL U.S. Forest Service	CONSTITUENT GROUP(S) AFFECTED BY BILL Sportsmen's groups, Advisory committees, Environmental groups
ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT FOR BILL Sitka and Ketchikan sportsmen's groups Alaska loggers	ORGANIZATIONAL OPPOSITION TO BILL Unknown

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE FISCAL NOTE ATTACHED

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE INTENT
Various groups, particularly the sportsmen's group from Ketchikan, have supported a transplant of Roosevelt Elk to southeastern Alaska. This bill would mandate such an introduction.

ANALYSIS OF BILL/PROGRAM EFFECTS
Prior to transplanting elk or any other species, permission must be granted by the land managing agency--in this case, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The Forest Service has indicated that an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be necessary and possibly an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) if the EA indicates that a more detailed evaluation is necessary. Board of Game policy is that an introduction or transplant of wildlife must be preceded by an analysis indicating that sufficient habitat exists to sustain the species, that the transplant would not adversely affect indigenous species, and that the transplant would likely serve a useful purpose. The department and the USFS have met and agreed upon proposed criteria (attached) for a feasibility study. The Commissioner has agreed with the USFS Regional Forester to work cooperatively in developing a plan for the feasibility study. Among the questions to be addressed are the potential effects on indigenous Sitka blacktail deer. Because predator-prey relationships, forage availability, and other factors may affect the (continued)

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED
Line 9: years, (COOPERATE and assist in the) Transplant(ING) to Zarembo Island or other appropriate location in southeastern Alaska (OF)
Delete last sentence, lines 15 and 16: the department already has this authority.

success of a proposed transplant, it is desirable to evaluate more than one possible transplant location.

The department is not currently funded to conduct the necessary feasibility study. Work of this type can be conducted over a period of years in conjunction with existing research and management activities. In this way, costs could be minimized, but a substantial period of time would be necessary. To conduct the work over a shorter period would require additional funding. Assuming the study indicates that the transplant is feasible, funding to cover the actual transport of animals (and related costs) would be needed.

INTRODUCTION OF ELK INTO SOUTHEAST ALASKA

PROPOSED CRITERIA FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY

The following criteria should be addressed when conducting a feasibility study on the introduction of elk onto public lands in Southeast Alaska:

1. Consider possible implications of introducing elk to Southeast Alaska.
 - a. Biological implications
 - b. Ecological implications
 - c. Recreational implications
 - d. Economical implications
 - (1) Estimate of cost/benefit
2. Consider potential types of public use.
 - a. Sport hunting
 - b. Non-consumptive
3. Consider attitudes of people in Southeast Alaska towards introducing elk.
 - a. Public sectors
 - b. State and Federal agencies
4. Compliance with agency policies, direction, and regulations.
 - a. State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game
 - b. USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region
5. Historical Record of Elk Introductions to Southeast Alaska.
 - a. Literature review
 - b. Past experience and results
6. Biological and Habitat Relationships
 - a. Suitability of habitats for elk
 - (1) Winter ranges-optimum/minimum acres
 - (2) Summer ranges-optimum/minimum acres
 - (3) Effect of timber harvest on elk habitat
 - b. Forage availability (quantity, quality, forage species)
 - (1) Winter range
 - (2) Summer range

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Original sponsors: Taylor and Sund

Funding Information

General Fund	\$50,000
Other Funds	-0-
	<u>\$50,000</u>

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 SENATE CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 166 (Resources)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act making a special appropriation to the Depart-
7 ment of Fish and Game; and providing for an effective
8 date."

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

0 * Section 1. The sum of \$50,000 is appropriated from the general fund
1 to the Department of Fish and Game for the transplantation of elk to
2 Zarembo Island or other appropriate locations in Southeast Alaska.

3 * Sec. 2. The unexpended and unobligated portion of the appropriation
4 made by this Act lapses into the general fund June 30, 1986.

5 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect on the effective date of an Act enti-
6 tled "An Act relating to the transplanting of elk."

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- c. Habitat competition with other species
 - (1) Forage competition
 - (2) Space-competition
 - (3) Reproduction/breeding
 - d. Biological potential for elk in Southeast Alaska
 - (1) Subspecies most suitable to Southeast Alaska
 - (2) Availability of transplant stock
 - (3) Habitat adaptability of the animal
 - (4) Reproduction
 - (5) Survival/mortality
 - e. Predator/Prey Relationships
 - (1) Effects of predation on Elk
 - (2) Potential problems with other species
 - f. Diseases and Parasites
 - (1) Potential problems with elk populations
 - (2) Potential problems with other species
 - g. Land Use/Habitat Relationships
 - (1) Effect of timber harvest on public and native lands on habitat utilization by elk
 - (2) Effect of State land disposal activities
7. Management of the Elk Populations in Southeast Alaska.
- a. Mobility of the animals-likelihood of expansion to other areas outside the original transplant site.
 - b. Population Management - regulations needed to maintain population size and areas occupied to meet management objectives
 - c. Potentials for Animal Damage
 - (1) Land Use Conflicts - public and private lands

The following is a proposed budget assuming a transplant from Afognak Island. The budget will change depending on the origin of the animals and other factors. Volunteer labor and donation could offset part of the cost.

Helicopter time for animal capture	18,000
Transport of animal Kodiak-Wrangell	15,000
Materials for capture and transport	4,500
Unloading and release	4,000
Spotter plane to locate animals	4,500
Travel and per diem	<u>3,000</u>
	\$49,000

This does not include funding to follow-up and monitor the success of the transplant.