

S

B

B

O

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

File Copy

(11)

Date Referred: April 26, 1989

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 3/12/90

The FINANCE Committee considered: CSSB 30(FIN) am

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 30 (Finance) am
 [REPEAL 25 CT HUNTING/FISHING/TRAPPING LIC]
 "An Act relating to the resident hunting, trapping, and sport fishing license for low income or indigent persons and to applications for certain fish and game licenses, tags, and permits; and providing for an effective date."

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- be replaced with HCS CSSB 30(FIN) the same title
- a new title
- have attached amendment(s)
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: HOUSE FINANCE Cmte. letter of intent

- ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept) APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Date/Dept)
- fiscal impact F & G. fiscal note(s) _____
 - zero fiscal note Pub. Safety zero fiscal note(s) _____
 - zero with analysis _____ zero fn/analysis _____

SIGNING DO PASS:

SIGNING:
(Check approp. column)

Do Not Pass No Rec Amend

<u>[Signature]</u> HOFFMAN			
<u>[Signature]</u> CARSON			
<u>[Signature]</u> SWACKHAMMER			
<u>[Signature]</u> BROWN			
<u>[Signature]</u> KOPONEN			
<u>[Signature]</u> ULMER			
<u>[Signature]</u> BARNES			
<u>[Signature]</u> RIEGER			

[Signature] CARSON
 Chairman's Signature
[Signature] HOFFMAN



Alaska State Legislature

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee on Finance

Official Business

LETTER OF INTENT
FOR

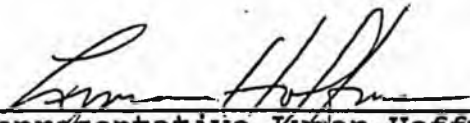
P.O. Box V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

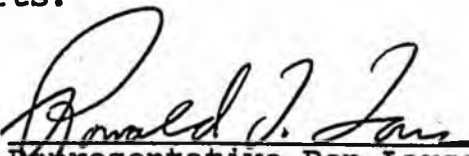
HCS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 30 (FINANCE)

With the passage of this legislation, it is the intent of the Legislature to direct the Department of Fish and Game to decrease the number of people who obtain the low-income licenses fraudulently with the

- * use of a separate form for low-income application which clearly spells out the qualifications for a low-income license; and penalties for both falsification of information on the application (including voiding of the license) and the use of a license that is obtained fraudulently; and the requirement that all applicants will supply proof of eligibility upon request. The form should also indicate that failure to supply such proof upon request voids the license, makes the applicant subject to prosecution for fishing, hunting, and trapping without a license, and is also a misdemeanor which, upon conviction, is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 and/or not more than six months in jail.
- * increased education of licensing vendors on the eligibility requirements and penalties for low-income licenses.
- * increased monitoring efforts by the department's licensing section, including biannual cross-check with the Department of Health and Social Services public assistance records. The names of those who have indicated their eligibility for the low-income license because of their receipt of public assistance but do not appear on public assistance records will be immediately sent to the Department of Public Safety for investigation.

The Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Public Safety shall report back to the Legislature by January 31, 1992, on the results of these efforts.


Representative Lyman Hoffman
Co-Chairman


Representative Ron Larson
Co-Chairman

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
Title: An Act repealing the 25c resident hunting, ... license
Sponsor: Fischer
Requestor: Resources

Agency Affected: Fish and Game
BRU: Sport Fish, Wildlife Conservation and Administration
Components: Sport Fish, Wildlife Conservation and Administration

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL	6.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	6.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER Fish & Game	66.5	138.8	138.8	138.8	138.9	138.9
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

No FY 90 impact. Note, if HB124, general fee increases bill were to pass, revenue would rise in FY 91 by an additional \$31.5 and in FY 92 by an additional \$67.5

Prepared by: Beverly Deane *Beverly Deane* Phone: 465-4120
Division: Administration Date: 01/19/90

Approved by Commissioner: Alvin J. Peltier *Alvin J. Peltier* Date: 1/19/90
Agency: Fish and Game

Distribution (by preparer):
Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)

- ASSUMPTIONS: (1) THE FIRST HALF OF FY91 WILL HAVE LICENSES SOLD AT 25 CENTS
 (2) 25% OF THOSE PREVIOUSLY PURCHASING 25 CENTS LICENSES WILL BUY A FULL PRICE HUNTING/FISHING COMBINATION LICENSE
 (3) HALF WILL BUY A \$5 LOW-INCOME LICENSE
 (4) SEPARATE LOW INCOME LICENSE CREATED

IN FY89 14,972 LICENSES WERE SOLD AT 25 CENTS PER LICENSE

THE VALUE EQUALED $14,972 \times .25 = \$3,743$

PROJECTED SALES IN FY91 (FIRST HALF OF YEAR AT 25 CENTS)

FIRST SIX MONTHS OF FY91	8100 x .25 =	\$2,025
SECOND SIX MONTHS OF FY91		
NEW LOW INCOME LICENSE	5200 x 5	\$25,000
COMBINATION LICENSE AT FULL PRICE	1750 x 22	\$38,500
TOTAL SALES FY91		\$66,525

PROJECTED SALES FY92 AND BEYOND

LOW INCOME LICENSES	11250 x 5	\$55,250
COMBINATION LICENSE AT FULL PRICE	3750 x 22	\$82,500
TOTAL SALES FY92		\$138,750

EXPENSES:

PRINTING 15,000 LOW INCOME LICENSES	\$5,000
DISTRIBUTION/POSTAGE COSTS	\$2,500
HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR LOW INCOME LICENSE	\$5,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$12,500

TOTAL NEW REVENUE FY91	\$54,025
TOTAL NEW REVENUE FY92	\$126,250

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: 11/20/89
Title: Repealing the 25¢ resident hunting, trapping, sportfishing license
Sponsor: Senator Fischer
Requestor: House Finance

Agency Affected: Public Safety
BRU: Fish and Wildlife Protection
Component: Enforcement

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars) (Inflation not included)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
---------	---	---	---	---	---	---

REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0
---------	---	---	---	---	---	---

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER/PROG RCPT						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

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

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

No fiscal impact is anticipated.

Prepared by: Captain Conrad G. Seibel
Division: Fish and Wildlife Protection

Phone: 269-5509
Date: 11-20-89

Approved by Commissioner: A. H. English
Agency: Department of Public Safety

Date: 11-29-89
Page 1 of 1

Original sponsor(s): SEN. FISCHER

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 30 (Finance)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the resident hunting, trapping,
7 and sport fishing license for low income or indigent
8 persons and to applications for certain fish and game
9 licenses, tags, and permits; and providing for an
10 effective date."

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

12 * Section 1. AS 16.05.340(a)(6) is repealed and reenacted to read:

13 (6) Resident hunting, trapping, and sport fishing li-
14 cense.....32;

15 (A) however, the fee is \$5 for an applicant who

16 (i) is receiving or has received assistance
17 during the preceding six months under any state or federal
18 welfare program to aid the indigent, or

19 (ii) has an annual family gross income of less
20 than \$8,200 for the year preceding application.

21 (B) a person paying \$5 for a resident hunting, trap-
22 ping, and sport fishing license must provide proof of eligibility
23 under this paragraph when requested by the departments.

24 * Sec. 2. AS 16.05.340(a)(17)(A) is amended to read:

25 (A) A person may not engage in waterfowl hunting
26 without having the current year's waterfowl tag in the person's
27 actual possession, unless that person

28 (i) qualifies for a \$5 [25 CENT] license fee
29 under (6) of this subsection [AS 16.05.340(a)(6)];

- 1 (ii) is a resident under the age of 16;
2 (iii) is 60 years of age or older and has been a
3 resident for at least one year;
4 (iv) is a disabled veteran eligible for a free
5 license under AS 16.05.341.

6 * Sec. 3. AS 16.05.340(c) is amended to read:

7 (c) The commissioner may issue a duplicate license or a dupli-
8 cate tag as a replacement for a license or tag issued under (a) of
9 this section. A fee of \$2 shall be charged for each duplicate license
10 or tag and the duplicate may [SHALL] not be issued unless the commis-
11 sioner or a delegate is satisfied that the original has been lost or
12 destroyed. [THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A 25-CENT LICENSE
13 ISSUED UNDER (a)(6) OF THIS SECTION.]

14 * Sec. 4. AS 16.05.420 is repealed and reenacted to read:

15 Sec. 16.05.420. LICENSE, TAG, AND PERMIT VIOLATIONS. (a) A
16 false statement of a material fact in an application for a license,
17 tag, or permit issued under AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430 voids the li-
18 cense, tag, or permit for which the application is made.

19 (b) A person who knowingly makes a false statement, or knowingly
20 omits a material fact, in an application for a license, tag, or permit
21 issued under AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430 is guilty of unsworn falsifica-
22 tion under AS 11.56.210.

23 (c) A person to whom a license or tag has been issued under this
24 chapter may not alter, change, loan, or transfer the license or tag.
25 A person may not use a license or tag that has been issued under this
26 chapter to another person.

27 * Sec. 5. AS 16.05.430(a) is amended to read:

28 (a) Except as provided in AS 16.05.420(b), a [A] person who
29 violates AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.420 or a regulation adopted under

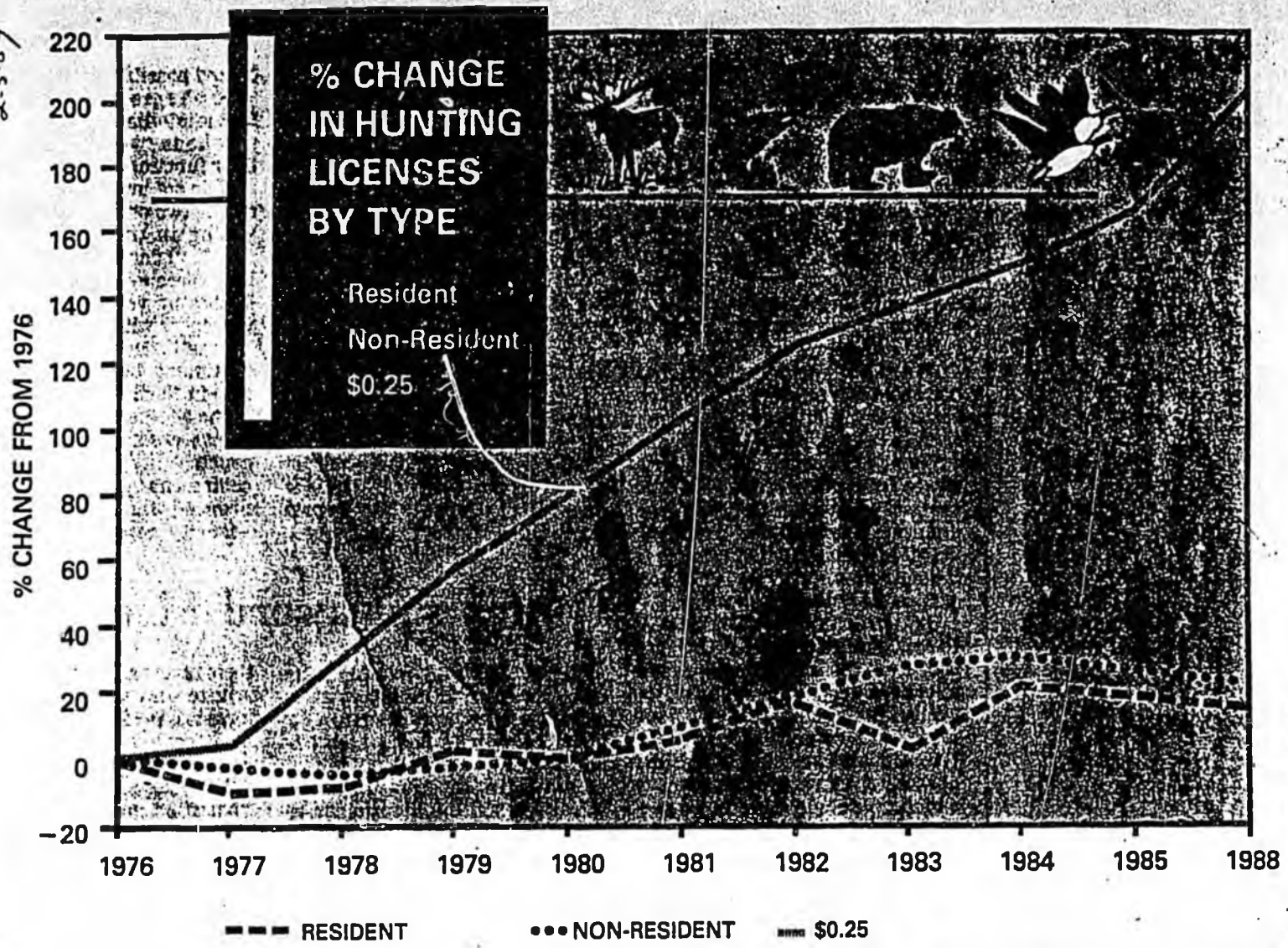
1 AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.420 is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction
2 is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000, or by imprisonment
3 for not more than six months, or by both.

4 * Sec. 6. AS 16.05.660 is amended to read:

5 Sec. 16.05.660. LICENSE EXEMPTION. A person may, by complying
6 with the \$5 [25-CENT] license requirement of AS 16.05.340(a)(6), take
7 not more than 2,000 pounds each of tom cod, blue cod, smelt, pickerel,
8 white fish, and spider crab a year from waters of the state.

9 * Sec. 7. This Act takes effect January 1, 1991.
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29

Fox View Miner
2-3-89



Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH Y - STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907-465-3800

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY

M E M O R A N D U M

January 24, 1990

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary of CSSB 30(Fin) am;
An Act relating to the resident hunting,
trapping, and sport fishing license for low
income or indigent persons and to
applications for certain fish and game
licenses, tags, and permits

TO: Senator Paul Fischer

FROM: George Utermohle *GU*
Legislative Counsel

This memorandum is a sectional summary of CSSB 30(Fin) am.

A summary or analysis of a bill is not an authoritative statement of the contents of the bill. The bill itself is the best statement of its contents.

Section 1 of the bill repeals and reenacts AS 16.05.-340(a)(6). This section changes present law by increasing the fee from 25¢ to \$5 for the resident hunting, trapping, and sport fishing license for low income and indigent persons. The income eligibility level for the license is raised to \$8,200.

Section 2 of the bill amends AS 16.05.340(a)(17)(A) by deleting a reference to the 25¢ resident hunting, trapping, and sport fishing license and inserting a reference to the \$5 license. This change is made to conform with the amendment made by sec. 1.

A technical change is also made to an internal statutory citation.

Section 3 of the bill amends AS 16.05.340(c) by deleting a reference to the 25¢ resident hunting, trapping, and sport fishing license. The effect of this amendment is to set the

Senator Paul Fischer
Page 2
January 24, 1990

replacement fee for the \$5 resident hunting, trapping, and sport fishing license at \$2.

Section 4 of the bill repeals and reenacts AS 16.05.420. This section changes existing law by making a knowing false statement or omission on an application for a hunting, trapping, or sport fishing license, tag, or permit punishable as the crime of unsworn falsification under AS 11.56.210.

The other provisions of this section do not change existing law, but are restructured in order to improve clarity.

Section 5 of the bill amends AS 16.05.430(a) by excepting AS 16.05.420(b) from the penalties set out in this section. This change is made to conform to the amendment made by sec. 4.

Section 6 of the bill amends AS 16.05.660 by deleting a reference to the 25¢ resident hunting, trapping, and sport hunting license and inserting a reference to the \$5 license. This change is made to conform to the amendment made by sec. 1.

Section 7 of the bill provides that the bill takes effect January 1, 1990. The effective date of the bill must be changed before the bill is passed by the legislature.

GU:gc
L9/070

SPORT FISHING, HUNTING, & TRAPPING LICENSE

DEPT. USE ONLY

EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 1980

RES. CLASS 1 \$10.00 Sport Fishing	RES. CLASS 2 \$12.00 Hunting	RES. CLASS 3A \$22.00 Hunting - Trapping	RES. CLASS 3B \$10.00 Trapping	RES. CLASS 4 \$22.00 Hunting Sport Fishing	RES. CLASS 5 \$32.00 Hunting - Trapping Sport Fishing
--	------------------------------------	--	---	--	---

EXCEPT RESIDENT TRAPPING VALID THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30 OF THE YEAR FOLLOWING DATE OF PURCHASE, AND NONRESIDENT CLASSES (A AND B) VALID FOR THE SPECIFIED 3 OR 14 DAY PERIOD.

541172

APPLICANT'S NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST) PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

PHYSICAL LOCATION OF RESIDENCE BIRTHDATE (MONTH, DAY, YEAR)

RESIDENCY: Actual number of years and months as a resident is required. If nonresident, write "none".

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (OPTIONAL)	WEIGHT (LBS.)	EYE COLOR	HAIR COLOR	HEIGHT (FT.) (IN.)	SEX
-----------------------------------	---------------	-----------	------------	--------------------	-----

YEARS MONTHS

US CITIZEN (CIRCLE) YES NO I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ALL OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT. (NOTE: Providing false information is subject to a maximum penalty of either a \$1000 fine or 6 month imprisonment, or both, per AS 16.05.430.) X

Signature of Licensee

THIS APPLICATION IS EFFECTIVE AS A LICENSE UPON THE SIGNATURE OF THE CULY AUTHORIZED FISH & GAME LICENSE OFFICER.

VENDOR NUMBER

License Officer At

CLASS ISSUED	DATE ISSUED
	MONTH / DAY / YEAR

NO LICENSE VALID IF PUNCHED MORE THAN ONCE

NONRESIDENT CLASS 6A 14 - Day \$20.00 Sport Fishing	NONRESIDENT CLASS 6B 3 - Day \$10.00 Sport Fishing	NONRESIDENT CLASS 7 \$36.00 Sport Fishing	NONRESIDENT CLASS 8 \$60.00 Hunting	NONRESIDENT CLASS 9 \$96.00 Hunting - Sport Fishing	NONRESIDENT CLASS 10 \$200.00 Hunting - Trapping
--	---	---	---	---	--

AFFIDAVIT ON BACK OF THIS LICENSE MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF ANY OF THE LICENSES LISTED BELOW.

RES. CLASS 5A 25c Hunting Trapping Sport Fishing	MILITARY CLASS 12 NONRESIDENT \$10.00 Sport Fishing	MILITARY CLASS 13 NONRESIDENT \$12.00 Small Game Hunting	MILITARY CLASS 14 NONRESIDENT \$22.00 Sport Fishing Small Game Hunting	CLASS 18 \$2.00 Duplicate	INDICATE HERE THE CLASS OF ORIGINAL LICENSE ISSUED:
--	--	---	--	---------------------------------	---

Please complete Section A, B or C, and Section D

- A. 25c License Only
- B. Duplicate License Only
- C. Military License Only
- D. All Applicants

AFFIDAVIT SUPPORTING LICENSE APPLICATION FOR SPORT FISHING, HUNTING AND TRAPPING

<p>A. RESIDENT CLASS 5A TWENTY-FIVE CENT LICENSE</p> <p>This license class applies only to residents of the state of Alaska who are non-military. It is not new nor has it ever been the intent of the Legislature to include military personnel in the Class 5A Hunting, Sport Fishing and Trapping License issued for a fee of \$25.</p> <p>I am not a member of the United States armed services stationed in Alaska on active duty, and I am entitled to the Resident Hunting, Sport Fishing and Trapping License for a fee of \$25 for the following reasons:</p> <p>CHECK ONE STATEMENT IN BOTH SECTIONS THAT APPLIES TO THE APPLICANT.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1. I am the head of a family, or a dependent member of a family; or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2. I am solely dependent on myself for support.</p> <p>AND</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1. I am obtaining or have obtained during the immediately preceding six months, assistance under a state or federal welfare program to aid the indigent; or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2. My family's gross annual income has been less than \$5,600.00 for the year immediately preceding application.</p>		<p>B. DUPLICATE SPORT LICENSE Note: A separate duplicate license must be issued for each class of license lost.</p> <p>I hereby report the loss of my current Sport License issued to me in accordance with the Fish and Game Code of Alaska as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>License Class and Type</td> <td>Number of License, If Known</td> <td>Date of Issuance</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Issued By (Name of License Officer)</td> <td>Place of Issuance</td> </tr> </table>		License Class and Type	Number of License, If Known	Date of Issuance	Issued By (Name of License Officer)		Place of Issuance
License Class and Type	Number of License, If Known	Date of Issuance							
Issued By (Name of License Officer)		Place of Issuance							
<p>C. NONRESIDENT MILITARY CLASSES 12, 13, 14</p> <p>I am entitled to the special nonresident Military Sport Fishing and Small Game Hunting License at the same fee paid by residents of the state of Alaska for the following reason:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1. I am a member of the military service on active duty permanently stationed in Alaska; or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2. I am a dependent of a member of the military service on active duty permanently stationed in Alaska.</p>		<p>Branch of Military Service</p> <p>Rank and Serial Number</p> <p>Assigned Duty Station</p> <p>If a Dependent, Show Relationship</p>							
<p>D. I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that all of the above information is true and correct.</p>		<p>Signature of Licensee X</p> <p>Date</p>							

Opposition grows to 25-cent licenses

By KELLY BOSTIAN
Staff Writer

Findings that the number of 25-cent licenses issued in the state jumped dramatically in past years, and that many of those licenses may have been issued illegally, could lead to the elimination of the licenses.

Originally, the licenses loosely were named the "subsistence license," but that term was dropped when confused with subsistence regulations, according to Cecilia Wagoner, accounting supervisor for the licensing section of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. "We call it the low-income license," she said.

The accepted theory seems to be that the licenses originally were issued to provide low-income families a chance to support themselves with food gained by means of sport harvest. A regular combination hunting, fishing and trapping license costs \$32.

But vendors say they don't like handing them out. The Department of Fish and Game has found information that more than half may be obtained illegally, and a senator from Soldotna has presented a bill to the Legislature that would do away with the licenses, which have been around since before statehood.

Licenses that cost

According to Alaska statutes, to obtain the inexpensive hunting, trapping and sport fishing license, a person must:

- Be an Alaskan resident.
- Be the head of a family or dependent member of a family, or be solely dependent on oneself for support.
- Present proof that the applicant is obtaining, or has obtained, assistance during the past six months under any state or federal welfare program to aid the indigent.
- Present proof that the applicant has an annual family gross income of less than \$5,600 for the year preceding.

Buyers must sign an affidavit on the back of the original license copy, under penalty of perjury, stating they qualify, Wagoner said.

Officials and license vendors say the system has been a target for abuse, however, because it is not clearly defined which benefit programs fit in the "state or federal welfare program" category and because vendors cannot enforce the regulation.

Fish and Game figures show the number of 25-cent licenses issued increased threefold in 10 years; from 5,463 issued in 1987 to 17,930 in 1987. Each 25-cent

license costs the state more than \$1 to administer, Wagoner said.

"The licensing officer keeps the 25 cents as a commission and also is paid an administration fee of \$1 per license or tag. That doesn't include the costs of processing," she said.

That makes the program costly to the state general fund, and is seen as a loss to the state fish and game fund because of the lost potential revenue.

Survey finds abuse

The Department of Fish and Game has maintained that this is a social service program and it is not the prerogative of the department to initiate a change. The department did look into the matter, however.

Warren Wiley, deputy commissioner, began to look into the 25-cent license after the topic kept resurfacing during legislative hearings last year.

"People kept making reference to abuses of these 25-cent licenses. I had never given it a thought. But then I've only been here one year," he said. After discussing the situation with members of the board of the Alaska Outdoor Council he initiated a test of a random sampling of 25-cent license holders.

The Department of Health and Social Services processed an informal audit of 500 randomly selected names of people who purchased 25-cent licenses in the first half of 1988 against a state list of welfare recipients between July 1987 and June 1988.

The survey found 278 out of the 500, or 55 percent, were not receiving state or federal assistance.

"Frankly it surprised me," Wiley said. "I think it surprised a lot of people. Just in idle conversation, people would say, 'Gee I bet 15, or 20 percent of those things are phoney.' It just knocked me over when I saw that 55 percent didn't match."

If the licenses are repealed, or even administered more carefully, it could save the department as much as \$200,000 or even \$300,000 annually, Wiley said. "If you take half of the 17,000 licenses and multiply that by \$22, and, even further, if you take the license increase bill into consideration and multiply it by \$40, then you start talking some real dollars," he said.

Not a new issue

Sen. Paul Fischer, R-Soldotna, has watched the 25-cent license issue with interest for years.

He has introduced legislation to repeal the license every legislative session for the past six years, according to Sandy Nus-

baum, special assistant to the senator. This year, he has introduced SB 30.

Fischer has obtained complete printouts of 25-cent license recipients in the past and he doesn't like the way the list breaks down. "The majority of them are 18-23 year-old Caucasians from Anchorage and the larger cities," he said. "You see the names of people in well-to-do areas and you have to wonder what they're doing on that list," he said.

The list also showed 30-40 names with out-of-state addresses, Nusbaum said. "It's incredible when you look at it," she said.

Fischer said the low-income license is outdated, abused and a waste of money. "I don't think it's needed at all," he said.

"If someone is on welfare the state already helps them in another sense when they get a Permanent Fund dividend of \$800," he said.

Vendors on the line

Fischer said the people who best know of the abuses are those who issue them. "They sell somebody a 25-cent license, then the same guy turns around and buys \$300 worth of sport fishing gear," Fischer said. "The dealers would prefer not to sell them but, at the same time, they aren't capable of enforcement."

Ken Buktolph, owner of Fin-N-Fur Sporting Goods in Gavora Mall, said he sells quite a few of the 25-cent licenses and knows there are abuses. "I've had guys come in here and by a 25-cent license and pull out a roll of \$100 bills that would choke you," he said. "I know one guy was running for office in the state and his kid came in, you know that can't be right," he said.

"I don't even question it because it's not my place. But in the back of mind I'm always thinking, 'hey, why are we doing this.' But that's the law. It's abused completely."

John Corning, a clerk at Frontier Sporting Goods, said he feels sorry for those who honestly need the inexpensive license, but said the regulation needs to be more stringent.

"I've had three guys come in with a dollar between them, buy three licenses, and then have a quarter left and not know how to split it up," he said. "What gripes me is the guy who's been working on the Slope and already made in three months what I make in a year, and because he was seasonably employed and taking unemployment he says he qualifies for a 25-cent license."

FAIRBANKS DAILY NEWS MIRROR

February 3, 1989

Check shows cheating on cheap licenses: A cross-check of Alaskans who obtained a 25-cent fishing and hunting license last year shows more than half of them probably obtained the license fraudulently, a Fish and Game official says.

A sampling of 500 license holders selected at random was checked against the state's list of welfare recipients, Deputy Commissioner Warren Wiley said Monday.

The study showed 287 license holders, 55.6 percent, were not on any state welfare group.

The combination hunting, fishing and trapping license can be purchased for 25 cents by Alaskans who have received welfare during the previous six months, or who make less than \$5,600 a year.

Sportfishing and hunting groups have complained for years that the program is open to abuse.

State Sen. Paul Fischer, R-Soldotna, has introduced legislation to abolish the 25-cent license.

"It's just a program that is totally abused," Fischer said. "You keep hearing about it. Now I think it's time to drop it."

The informal audit comes as the department is seeking substantial increases in license fees for resident and non-resident hunters and fishermen.



ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL, INC.

3780 MCGINNIS DR. JUNEAU, AK 99801
(907) 789-3450

P.O. Box 34097
JUNEAU, AK. 99803
(907) 463-3830

January 22, 1990

Senator Paul Fischer
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Ak. 99811

Dear Senator Fischer:

This is to advise you that the Alaska Outdoor Council is again officially supporting SB 30 which would repeal the present 25 cent license for fishing, hunting and trapping.

Last spring our members met at the annual business meeting and set out specific guidelines for our Board of Directors to follow in addressing the license increase proposal from ADF&G. In that meeting, SB 30 was discussed extensively. The decision which the members made and gave to the Board basically opposed any low-cost license system in Alaska and if such could not be obtained, a minimum of \$10.00 was set as our bottom line for those types of licenses.

We believe the exposed abuses of the 25 cent license system coupled with the fact each individual Alaskan receives a substantial amount of revenue each year in the form of their permanent fund dividend check should preclude any form of licensing system which does not at least return some gain to the State in order to manage those resources being utilized.

We appreciate your interest in pursuing this issue and hope to be able to continue working with you in passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Ed Grasser, Director
Legislative Affairs