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HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(9)

Date Referred: January 9, 1989

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 1-24-89

The RESOURCES Committee recommends that:

HOUSE BILL NO. 62 [HUNTING BY DISABLED OR HANDICAPPED]

"An Act relating to means and methods of pursuit, capture, and transport of game by disabled or medically handicapped persons."

[] be replaced with _____ [] 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: _____ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

- fiscal impact
- zero fiscal note
- zero with analysis

APPROVES PREVIOUS:

- fiscal note(s) published: _____
- zero fiscal notes(s) published: _____

SIGNING DO PASS:

Mike Swanson
Richard Stoney
Bill Hunt

SIGNING OTHER THAN DO PASS:

(Do Not Pass, No Recommendation, Amend)

Walt Furnace No Rec.
Scott May - No. Rec.
Mike Swanson 1

Scott May
Chairman's signature

SPECIAL HUNTING LICENSES FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Participation in recreational and subsistence hunting is important to many Alaskans, including those with various physical handicaps. The importance of wild game meat to blind persons was recognized by the Alaska Legislature in 1967 with passage of 16.05.405 which provides that any resident may take moose, caribou, deer or elk by proxy for a blind person. It appears that there is the opportunity now to develop a law which would benefit citizens with other physical handicaps (amputees, paraplegics, etc.) through providing them with enhanced opportunities to hunt.

In some parts of Alaska, like the Interior where it is legal to shoot from a boat, many handicapped person can participate in hunting with relative ease. Other circumstances, for example, hunting relatively inaccessible game such as sheep or goats, essentially preclude participation in hunting. Nonetheless, there are a number of circumstances or situations in which special opportunities could be provided for hunters with physical disabilities through the regulatory process. If done properly, provision for these opportunities could be accomplished without depriving other citizens of significant hunting opportunities. Examples might be allowing a handicapped person to utilize a vehicle in an area where vehicle use by hunters is otherwise restricted, or allowing hunting by the handicapped in areas where general hunting must be precluded for reason of crowding and safety.

This legislation provides the Board of Game the latitude to implement regulations benefitting disabled hunters and indicates to the Board of Game the Legislature's desire to have such regulations developed. Passage of this legislation into law and the subsequent passage of appropriate regulations by the Board of Game will essentially allow disabled citizens to compete equally for game with less disadvantaged citizens.



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RECEIVED JAN 24 1988

BILL ANALYSIS

DEPARTMENT Fish and Game	DIVISION Wildlife Conservation	BILL NUMBER HB 62	SPONSOR House Rules
SHORT TITLE OF BILL An act relating to hunting by disabled or medically handicapped persons.			
DEPARTMENT POSITION Support			
PREPARED BY Donald E. McKnight	DATE 1/23/89	COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURE <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE 1/24/89

SUMMARY

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED BY BILL Department of Public Safety	CONSTITUENT GROUPS AFFECTED BY BILL Handicapped citizens
ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT FOR BILL None known	ORGANIZATIONAL OPPOSITION TO BILL None known

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE FISCAL NOTE ATTACHED

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE INTENT

Proportionately more Alaskans than residents of other states participate in hunting and trapping. These activities are an important aspect of "the Alaska lifestyle," providing much recreation while at the same time yielding products that are an important element in our diets. In addition to being important recreational and/or subsistence related activities, participation in hunting or trapping has important social ramifications. Regulatory constraints on allowable methods and means for hunting or trapping imposed upon the general public presently preclude effective hunting or trapping by our disabled or

ANALYSIS OF BILL/PROGRAM EFFECTS

The Alaska Legislature has granted the Board of Game the regulatory authority to manage Alaska's wildlife resources on the sustained yield principle for the maximum benefit of the people of this state. Currently, however, this authority does not permit the Game Board to establish regulations which would single out a particular group of citizens for special regulatory treatment. Passage of HB 62 specifically allows the Board of Game to adopt regulations governing methods and means of hunting and trapping which would allow disabled or medically handicapped persons to hunt or trap on virtually an equal footing with citizens without handicaps of this nature. Passage of HB 62 does not mandate passage of these regulations, but it certainly would indicate an intent by the Legislature that such regulations be adopted.

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED

PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR ANALYSIS.

BILL ANALYSIS

HB 62

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BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE INTENT

medically handicapped citizens. Passage of HB 62 would authorize the Board of Game to establish regulations on methods and means for the handicapped which would enable these citizens to participate in hunting and trapping to a greater extent than provided for by existing regulations.

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST: _____

Revision Date: _____ Agency Affected: Fish and Game
 Title: Means and methods, capture and trans- BRU: Wildlife Conservation
port of game by disabled or medically handicapped persons
 Sponsor: House Rules Components: _____
 Requestor: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
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
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REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
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)

Prepared by: Don McKnight Phone: 465-4190
 Division: Wildlife Conservation Date: January 24, 1989

Approved by Commissioner: _____ Date: _____
 Agency: _____

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



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AEL TESTIMONY ON HB 62 HANDICAPPED HUNTERS

House Resources Committee
January 24, 1989
by Bill Glude

We have been in touch with the Department of Fish and Game on this bill, and it is our understanding that it is intended to encourage different, but reasonable and sportsmanlike, means and methods for handicapped hunters. We support the intent of encouraging a full range of activities for the handicapped, with the understanding that those means and methods be limited by the Board of Game to those which are appropriately sportsmanlike and not damaging to public resources. Specifically, we understand that the use of off-road vehicles will not be encouraged by this bill. With this understanding, the Alaska Environmental Lobby supports House Bill 62.

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KNIK GROUP, SIERRA CLUB • DENALI GROUP, SIERRA CLUB • ANCHORAGE AUDUBON SOCIETY • ARCTIC AUDUBON SOCIETY
DENALI CITIZENS' COUNCIL • ALASKA FRIENDS OF THE EARTH • JUNEAU AUDUBON SOCIETY • KACHEMAK BAY CONSERVATION SOCIETY
KENAI PENINSULA AUDUBON SOCIETY • KODIAK AUDUBON SOCIETY • LYNN CANAL CONSERVATION • ALASKA WILDLIFE ALLIANCE
SITKA CONSERVATION SOCIETY • NORTHERN ALASKA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER • SOUTHEAST ALASKA CONSERVATION COUNCIL
KNIK KANGERS AND KAYAKERS