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SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

FIRST COMMITTEE OF REFERRAL

DATE: 2/13/91

FURTHER: Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: 2-20-91
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: 3-4-91

Resources Committee considered SB 116

Permits for the hunting of bison; efd.

and a majority of the committee recommends do pass

and recommended:

- replace with _____ CS _____ same title
- attached amendment(s) new title
- _____ letter of intent adopted

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

further referral to _____

FM

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department(s)/Date:

Department(s)/Date:

fiscal note(s) Fish 2/19/91

zero fiscal note(s) Fish 2/19/91

appropriation-no fiscal note

Governor's bill w/fiscal note

SIGNING DO PASS:

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Frank
Mumant
Colton
Kirk Halford

David Jones (Do Pass)
 Chair: Signature and Recommendation



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

SENATE

SENATOR VIRGINIA COLLINS

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

SPONSOR STATEMENT

Senate Bill 116

Senate Bill 116, "An Act relating to permits for the hunting of bison; and providing for an effective date."

Under current law, the application fee for a drawing permit issued by the Department of Fish and Game for the hunting of bison in the Delta Junction Bison Range Area is \$10 and the fee in both the Farewell and Chitina herd areas is \$5.

This bill would increase the fee in the Farewell and Chitina areas to \$10 so the fee would be consistent for the three areas.

The fee increase would allow for better range and herd management in each of the areas. Current funding is inadequate. Management includes providing areas of adequate forage for the bison, making aerial surveys to gather herd data including population figures, equipping some of the herd with tracking collars, and checking the herd for disease.

There is an increasing interest in bison hunts. These hunts are one of only a few in the U.S. and Canada and there is a growing demand and market for the meat. Currently, the Alberta herd and the Yellowstone herd is experiencing an outbreak of a serious disease and many of the animals are having to be slaughtered. Applications are on the increase in Alaska. Adequate funding to allow good management is imperative.

This bill is supported by the Department of Fish & Game and the fiscal note indicates revenue increasing over the next five years. This bill is also supported by the Alaska State Muzzle Loading Association and the McKinley Mountainmen Muzzle Loading Rifle Club. This fee increase would be effective with the 1992 hunt.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 116

Revision Date: _____ Department Affected: Fish and Game
 Title: An Act relating to permits the hunting of bison BRU: Division of Wildlife Conservation
 Component: Wildlife Conservation
 Sponsor: Senator Collins
 Requestor: _____ COMPONENT SERIAL NO.

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Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
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	\$11.0	\$12.7	\$14.6	\$16.8	\$19.3	\$22.2

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

Estimate of current year impact: no FY91 impact

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Projected revenue assumes an annual 15% growth rate in permit applications for the next few years, similar to the long-term increase in applications for the Delta Junction bison permit hunts.

Prepared By: Phil Koehl Phone: 465-4190
 Division: Wildlife Conservation Date: 2/19/91

Approved by Commissioner: *Carl L. Johnson*
 Agency: *Fish and Game* Date: *2/20/91*

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
POSITION PAPER

Bill No: SB 116

Sponsor: Senator Collins

Division: Wildlife Conservation

Bill Title: An Act relating to permits for the hunting of bison

Department Position: Support

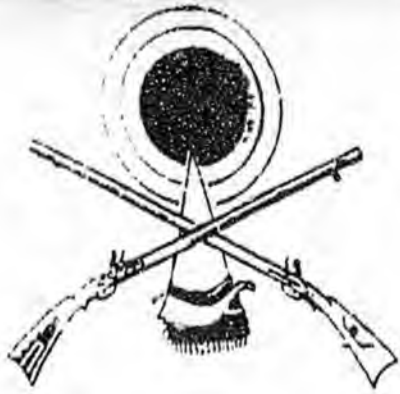
Application fees for drawing hunt permits for big game have been set by the Legislature at \$5. In 1985, the application fee for the popular bison hunts in the Delta Junction area were raised to \$10 to provide extra funding to help cover bison range management costs. At the time, hunting of Alaska's other 3 bison herds was very limited.

This bill would raise the application fee for permit drawing hunts for bison in the Chitina and Farewell herds and thus equalize the fee at \$10, statewide. The number of applications for the Farewell permit drawing has grown rapidly in recent years, and the hunt is heavily oversubscribed (in 1990-91 approximately 2700 applications for 70 permits). Hunting of the Copper River bison herd is currently managed by registration permit (no application fee is required). In the next few years, that hunt also will likely become a drawing permit hunt.

The increase in the application fee would provide a modest revenue source to the Fish and Game Fund. Although those funds cannot be dedicated, separate accounting would allow the department to allocate additional funds for bison range management and other projects that would benefit bison.

Commissioner's Signature: Allen F. ...

Date: 5/15/91



ALASKA STATE MUZZLE LOADING ASSOCIATION

166 1 2 831

February 21, 1990

Senator Virginia Collins
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: SB 116 (Bison permit fees)

Dear Senator Collins:

Because of historical interest our organization has a vested interest in the well being and health of the State's Bison herds. Bison are a very limited and highly prized game animal. We believe that it is important that the area Biologists have adequate funding to insure that they have the necessary information so that they can professionally manage the herds to meet the management objectives.

Therefore our organization fully supports the bill (SB 116) that you have introduced to raise the Bison drawing permit application fees to \$ 10 for all drawings (not just the Delta herd). Many of our members are hunters (both "subsistence" and recreational) and we support the "concept" of "user" fees that can help meet the management objectives.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Tim R Crawford". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name.

Tim R Crawford, President
Alaska State Muzzle Loading Association
10034 Goodnews Circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99515

265-4800 (w) 344-1783 (h)



McKinley Mountainmen

MUZZLE LOADING RIFLE CLUB

P.O. Box 770555

Eagle River, Alaska 99577-0555



February 22, 1990

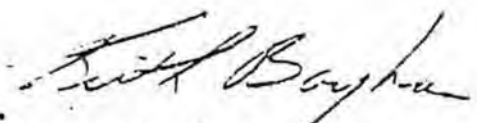
Senator Virginia Collins
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Regarding: S.B. 116 - Fees charged for Bison hunting permits.

Dear Senator Collins:

Our club was quite pleased to learn of your introduction of a bill to increase the permit fees charged for Bison hunting applications to \$ 10.00 for all the Bison permits and not just the Delta herd applications.

Alaska Bison are a limited resource that require effective management to insure that herds are maintained at the carrying capacity of their ranges. We fully support your Bill, S.B. 116, and hope that the additional income earned from the drawings held for biological harvesting will be able to benefit the management of those herds for which drawings are held.



Sincerely Yours,

Keith Bayha, President
McKinley Mountainmen Muzzleloading Rifle Club.
10443 Highbluff
Eagle River, Alaska 99577
Home: 694-4123

MIDNIGHT SUN MUZZLELOADERS, INC.
P.O. BOX 10612
FAIRBANKS, AK 99710
CHARLIE BIERMAN, PRESIDENT

SENATOR COLLINS
REF: SENATE BILL #116

DEAR SENATOR COLLINS:

I SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS TO RAISE THE BISON DRAWING APPLICATION PERMITS TO \$10.00 FOR ALL DRAWINGS, NOT JUST THE DELTA HERD. I BELIEVE THAT THE AREA BIOLOGISTS SHOULD HAVE ADEQUATE FUNDING TO MANAGE THE HERDS.

CHARLIE BIERMAN
PRESIDENT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Bierman". The signature is highly stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

2/22/91

Prepared by
Cathie Harms, WBII
Division of Wildlife
Conservation
Fairbanks

