

**HB**

**63**

# Alaska State Legislature

*Legislative Committees:*  
Resources  
Legislative Budget & Audit  
Administration Regulation Review  
Military & Veteran Affairs

*Legislative Budget Subcommittees:*  
University of Alaska  
Department of Natural Resources  
Department of Law

119 N. Cushman Street Suite 207  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
(907) 456-8172  
FAX (907) 451-9293

*While in Session*  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
(907) 465-4457  
FAX (907) 465-3519

## Representative John Davies District 29

### Memorandum

**TO:** Representative Jeannette James, Chairman  
House State Affairs Committee

**FROM:** Representative John Davies

**DATE:** February 1, 1996

**SUBJECT:** SS HB 63

I am requesting a hearing for SS HB 63, Dog Mushing License Plates. Given the often adversarial climate for dog mushing in the country at large, it is important for Alaskans to promote their state sport. SS HB 63 would allow Alaskans to do just that.

While there would be an initial start up cost for producing the plates, the additional fee for the special mushing plate would more than cover the costs. Any additional money collected would be available for appropriation to support programs benefiting dog mushing.

Thank you for your attention to my request.



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## Representative John Davies District 29

### SSHB 63 Dog Mushing License Plates Sponsor Statement

With recent attacks on our state sport, it is more important than ever for Alaskans to show their enthusiastic support for dog mushing. While not a musher myself, dog mushing is a sport I enjoy following very much. There is nothing quite like watching a good team moving quietly along the trails in Goldstream Valley near sunset. I am worried that the loss of financial backing for the long distance races like the Quest and the Iditarod will erode support for the whole sport.

For that reason, I introduced House Bill 63, which would allow the Department of Public Safety to issue dog mushing license plates. Clearly this bill is not going to solve all of the problems of the long-distance races, nor is it the most crucial issue facing the state. But it will encourage Alaskans to show their zest for mushing.

House Bill 63 would allow automobile owners to purchase specially designed license plates depicting some aspect of mushing. The extra \$50 fee will more than pay for the plates and any excess revenue could be appropriated to support dog mushing programs. Admittedly, the pool of money would be modest, but the real objective would be met by making dog mushing more visible on every street and parking lot in Alaska. Moreover, it gives nonmushers an opportunity to bolster the mushing community with a proud symbol of their support!



# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**1996 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**BILL NO: CSSSHB 63 (TRA)**

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Public Safety  
 Title: Dog mushing vanity plates BRU: Motor Vehicles  
 Component: Field Services  
 Sponsor: Representative Davies  
 Requestor: H. TRANS. COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 0502

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars) (inflation not included)**

OPERATING	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL	7.7					
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>
<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES (1004 Revenue Code)</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>

**FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)**

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	7.7					
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>

Estimate of current year (FY 96) impact: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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.)**

Contractual costs are associated with the design, ordering and purchase of 900 special request license plates. This type of special license plate must be ordered with a minimum order of 900 sets of plates. Because the order is for a relatively small number of plates, the manufacture charges \$8.50 per set of license plates. The total operating cost is \$7.7.

The response and success of this type of license plate program is difficult to predict as it depends on the number of persons purchasing the special dog mushing license plates. This bill sets a one time fee of \$50.00 to purchase the plates. Approximately 155 sets of plates must be sold to recover the costs of this program. When it can be determined the number of people who would purchase this type of plate, a revised fiscal note will be submitted to reflect new general fund revenue.

Prepared By: Juanita M. Hensley Phone: 465-2650  
 Division: Motor Vehicles Date: 1/24/96  
 Approved by Commissioner: *Ronald L. Otte* Date: 1/25/96  
 Agency: Ronald L. Otte, Dept. of Public Safety

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# **Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race**

P.O. Box 870800 • Wasilla, AK 99687-0800 • (907) 376-5155 • Fax: (907) 373-8998

January 23, 1996

Dear Honorable Legislator:

On behalf of the Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc. (ITC), I am writing to express our support of House Bill 63 which would allow the Department of Public Safety to issue dog mushing license plates.

In 1972 the Legislature recognized dog mushing as Alaska's state sport. It did so to formally acknowledge the importance of dog mushing in Alaska's rich history and as a show of support for the sport on into the future.

By offering individual Alaskans an opportunity to display their own support for mushing through the purchase of special license plates, they too will have the opportunity to show their pride in our State and enthusiasm for dog mushing. Additionally, the funds generated through the sale of these plates will play an important part in ensuring the financial health of various dog mushing events and/or organizations.

Please vote in favor of HB 63 and show your support of Alaska's dog mushing as an integral part of our winter and summer activities.

Sincerely yours for,

The Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stan Hooley', written over a horizontal line.

Stan Hooley  
Executive Director

# MUSH WITH PRIDE

Providing Responsible Information on a Dog's Environment



Will Forsberg, President  
Box 378  
Healy, Ak. 99743

Rep. John Davies  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Ak., 99801-1182

Jan. 22, 1996

RE: Mushing license plates

Dear Rep. Davies,

On behalf of the 400 members of the Mush with PRIDE organization I would like to thank you for your support of sled dog sports and offer my support for H.B. 63, the mushing license plate bill.

This bill would give Alaskans the opportunity to support our state sport and would help to publicize dog sledding as well as promoting winter tourism. As the sport grows in Alaska programs such as the mushing license plates bill are needed to fund educational and promotional groups which benefit the entire sport and the state.

I urge all State legislators to support this bill.

Thank you,

Will Forsberg



*Iditarod Champion  
Jeff King  
Goose Lake Kennels  
P.O. Box 48  
Denali Park, Alaska 99755*

*Rep. John Davies  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
January 23, 1996*

*Dear Rep. Davies,*

*I support H.B. 63 which would allow the Dept. Of Public Safety to issue dog mushing licence plates within the state of Alaska. By supporting this bill we are supporting Alaska's state sport and will provide a positive avenue for raising revenue and attitudes that support dog mushing in our state.*

*Thank you for introducing this bill.*

*Happy Trials,*

*Jeff King*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff King".

January 24, 1996

Rep. John Davies  
State Capital  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Rep. John Davies,

Thank you for introducing H.B. 63 that allows the Department of Public Safety to issue a dog mushing license plate within the State of Alaska. Dog mushing is uniquely Alaska's state sport, and I appreciate the opportunity for supporters to make a contribution in this way.

I think, the objective of the bill is another positive way to make our sport visible year round on every street in Alaska. It will also raise a modest amount of revenue to support mushing programs statewide.

I believe this bill will also advance the promotion of winter tourism and, in this way, assist in developing a more diverse economy for our state.

I would like you to express my support of this bill to the appropriate committees and appreciate your support of both my sport and my lifestyle.

Sincerely,



DeeDee Jonrowe  
Jonrowe Racing Council  
P.O. Box 272  
Willow, Alaska 99688

Todd Hoener  
*Mushing Magazine*  
POB 149  
Ester, AK 99725  
907-479-0454 (office & fax)

Friday, 22 December 1995

Rep. John Davies  
119 N. Cushman Ste 205  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
907/456-8172

Dear Rep. John Davies,

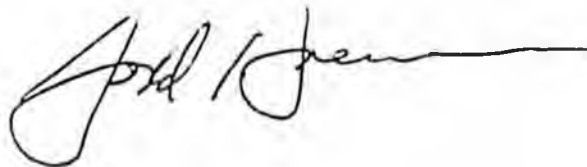
I wish to express my support for H.B. 63 which would allow the Department of Public Safety to issue dog mushing license plates within the State of Alaska. As you are well aware, dog mushing is Alaska's state sport.

I believe, as is the objective of the bill, that this is another positive way to make mushing more visible on every street in Alaska and that it is a modest method for raising revenue that would go to support mushing programs.

This bill will also advance the promotion of winter tourism which the citizens of Alaska need to nourish to economically succeed.

Thank you for introducing this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Hoener", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Todd Hoener  
Publisher / Editor-in-Chief



## Dog Mushing Museum

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P.O. Box 80136 • Fairbanks, Alaska • 99708-0136 • (907) 456-6874 (MUSH)

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April 12, 1995

Dear Honorable Legislator:

I am writing to urge your support for H.B. 63, a bill that will direct the Division of Motor vehicles to issue dog mushing license plates and promote our state sport. Now that an exciting mushing season has come to a close, there is no question in most Alaskan's mind why the former state legislature formerly passed the bill to recognize Dog Mushing as Alaska's state sport.

The excitement of sled dog racing seasonally sweeps across our state as people from all sectors of Alaska's society work together in support of sled dog sports. From the suppliers, transporters, clubs, and race organizations - to the volunteers, veterinarians, and trail blazers - Alaskans become inspired from the awe of a fit sled dog whether running in a fast sprint race, or making steady progress down the trail of a long distance race.

Contemporary mushers and their dogs symbolize the historic way of life in most of Alaska. In prehistoric Athabaskan and Eskimo life to the gold rush era, sled dogs have gained a legendary reputation for their ability to work with people and share in the development of transportation. Now is an appropriate time for the legislature to empower Alaska's residents with a program to generate revenue for promoting dog mushing without taking away from existing programs. H.B. 63 will offer all Alaskans an opportunity to preserve and promote our state sport.

Please vote in favor of H.B. 63 and join in the statewide effort to encourage year round growth of dog mushing. By allowing Alaskans to purchase dog mushing vanity plates, the State of Alaska will be cost effectively marketing our state sport.

Sincerely,

Robert Sattler  
President

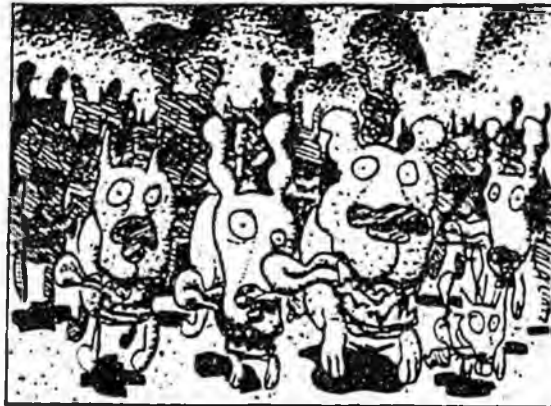
# Mush on

## *Top 10 reasons to pass HB 438*

OK, OK, so it's not exactly the most crucial issue before the legislature. But Rep. John Davies of Fairbanks has introduced a bill that would allow the state to issue license plates with a dog-mushing design. We like the idea.

Here's why:

10. It's not a grizzly bear. (OK, we liked the grizzly bear



too, but we remember all the complaints that it looked like an oil derrick or a blob of dirt.)

9. It's optional. You'd only have it if you ponied up an extra \$50. (Actually, we'd like it if it weren't optional.)

8. The new plate would pay for itself — if it were popular enough. A minimum order is 900 plates, so if the plate doesn't sell, the state would have to pay for what sits in a warehouse. But surely at least 900 Alaskans want a dog-mushing plate.

7. Public safety officials who fear that too many different license plate designs would make it hard to spot a plate as Alaskan can rest easy. Who else would have a dog-sled plate — Oklahoma?

6. Rep. Davies has a fall-back position if the public safety types think dog-mushing license plates are dangerous: Plates with the letters DOG, followed by a random three numbers. (Cute, but we like the actual dogs better.)

5. The fee would go to a good cause: dog mushing. Money raised over and above the cost of the plate could be used to promote the state sport, start new races or help fund the Iditarod or the Yukon Quest.

4. Putting dog mushing on more stable financial footing frees Alaskans to — if need be — tell national sponsors to go jump in a lake (something Alaskans love to be able to tell Outsiders).

3. Most importantly, money raised could help keep dog mushing alive and Alaskan, maybe by encouraging Bush and Native mushers who find it increasingly expensive to compete in the big races.

2. Alaskans LOVE dogs.

1. Animal-rights types would HATE this plate.