

**HB**

**26**

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 26

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Fish and Game  
 Title: Big Game Tags for Wolves BRU: Wildlife Conservation  
 Component: Wildlife Conservation  
 Sponsor: Representative Ogan  
 Requester: House Resources COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 473

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | FY 98      | FY 99      | FY 00      | FY 01      | FY 02      | FY 03      |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| PERSONAL SERVICES      |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| TRAVEL                 |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| CONTRACTUAL            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| SUPPLIES               |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| EQUIPMENT              |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| LAND & STRUCTURES      |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| GRANTS, CLAIMS         |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| MISCELLANEOUS          |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

|                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| CAPITAL EXPENDITURES |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

|                           |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| CHANGE IN REVENUES (1024) | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

|                          |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1002 Federal Receipts    |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| 1003 GF Match            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| 1004 GF                  |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| 1005 GF/Program Receipts |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| 1037 GF/Mental Health    |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Other                    |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

Estimate of any current year (FY97) cost: \$ 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)

Reduced fees may be an incentive for more nonresidents and nonresident aliens, who come to Alaska to hunt other big game species, to purchase big game tags for wolves. Sales estimates are based on the following assumptions: (1) average annual nonresident and alien licensees will remain constant at 8,050 and 310, respectively; (2) 53% of nonresident/alien hunters who indicated an unwillingness to pay any more for their hunts\* will not purchase wolf tags; (3) of the remainder, 30% of hunters who oppose wolf control\* will not purchase wolf tags; (4) of the remainder, 50% of hunters who do not already purchase wolf tags, will purchase wolf tags (assumption #4 is speculative). Using these assumptions, the number of nonresident/alien wolf tags sold annually will increase from the present 215/30 to 1500/75.

\*from: D.W. McCollum and S.M. Miller, 1994, Alaska voters, Alaska hunters, and Alaska nonresident hunters: their wildlife related trip characteristics and economics and their characteristics and attitudes toward wildlife.

Prepared by: Phil Koehl, Wildlife Biologist *PK*  
 Division: Wildlife Conservation

Phone: 465-4190  
 Date: 1/17/97

Approved by Commissioner: *Goran Bruce for*  
 Agency: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Date: 1/21/97

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# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(9)  
Date Referred to Committee: January 13, 1997

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Finance

Date of Committee Action: 1/30/97

The RESOURCES Committee considered:

HB 26

HOUSE BILL NO. 26

**BIG GAME TAGS FOR WOLVES**

“An Act relating to big game tags for wolves; and providing for an effective date.”

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute \_\_\_\_\_  the same title  
 a new title

additional referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee  
 attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

fiscal note(s) F & G

fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

| SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS | DP | DNP | NR | AM |
|------------------------------|----|-----|----|----|
| <i>Paul Ryan</i>             | ✓  |     |    |    |
| <i>W. J. Williamson</i>      | ✓  |     |    |    |
| <i>Joseph [unclear]</i>      | ✓  |     |    |    |
| <i>Barbara H. Bruner</i>     |    |     | ✓  |    |
| <i>Scott Oden</i>            | ✓  |     |    |    |
| <i>Bill Henderson</i>        |    |     | ✓  |    |
| <i>Loann [unclear]</i>       | ✓  |     |    |    |
| <i>[unclear]</i>             | ✓  |     |    |    |
|                              |    |     |    |    |
|                              |    |     |    |    |

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE *Rail Henderson - Co Chair* *Scott Oden - co-chair*

# Alaska State Legislature

Co-Chair Resources Committee  
Special Committee on Oil & Gas  
Legislative Council  
Community and Regional Affairs  
Fisheries



Room 128  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
907-465-3878  
Fax: 907-465-3265  
1-800-862-3878

## Representative Scott Ogan

House District: 27

### Sponsor Statement HB-26

I have introduced HB-26 (HB-313 last session), because the need to provide our wildlife specialists with the proper management tools is extremely important, especially in areas identified as needing intensive management. In light of Ballot Initiative #3 being approved, it is even more important we pass HB-26. Without sufficient latitude, it is difficult for the Department of Fish and Game and Board of Game to meet the requirements of sustained yield management under Article VIII of our State Constitution..

To maintain a healthy population of moose, caribou, and sheep for both human and natural (secondary) harvest the Department and Board of Game have few choices once hunting has been reduced or eliminated. One of the only practical remaining options to further decrease mortality of ungulates is a reduction in natural predation. To assist the Department in meeting their sustained yield goals, HB-26 provides increased incentives for nonresident hunters who consider the purchase of a big game tag to harvest wolves.

These hunters are generally under the supervision of a professional guide which requires a more closely monitored entry into the field. This, together with more stringent reporting requirements of animals both taken and shipped, gives the Department a very well controlled tool in attaining the scientifically established population goals for a given area.

It should be noted, that of the some 10,000 nonresident who typically hunt in Alaska annually, less than 3% purchase tags for harvesting a wolf. The main reason for low tag sales is the opportunity to harvest a wolf is remote at best. Consequently, most hunters are unwilling to pay a large sum of money with such poor odds. By establishing a more reasonable price on tags, the Department should see a significant rise in sales which will in turn put more dollars into the Fish and Game Fund while also increasing the incidental take of wolves.

In summary, HB-26 will provide a wider latitude for the Board of Game in making adjustments to meet the needs of both human and secondary utilization of our important ungulate resources while increasing the revenues for better management. I urge your support for this modification as provided in HB-26.

Thank you.

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**Representative Scott Ogan**  
House District 27

**HB-26 (Original)**

## **SECTION by SECTION ANALYSIS**

### **Section 1. AS 16.05.340 (a) (15) amended (J)**

(J) Reduces the big game wolf tag fee for nonresident hunters from \$175.00 to \$30.00.

Adds language to eliminate the wolf tag requirement for nonresident hunters in units the Board of Game have identified as needing intensive management.

### **Section 2. AS 16.05.340 (a)(21) amended (K)**

(K) Reduces the big game wolf tag fee for nonresident aliens hunters from \$250.00 to \$50.00.

Adds language to eliminate the wolf tag requirement for nonresident alien hunters in units the Board of Game has identified as needing intensive management.

### **Section 3.**

Establishes January 1, 1998 as the effective date of the Act.



# Alaska Environmental Lobby, Inc.

P.O. Box 22151 Juneau, Alaska 99802

Phone: 907-463-3366

Fax: 907-463-3312

## HB 26 - Twentieth Legislature

**" An Act relating to big game tags for wolves; and providing for an effective date."**

Alaska Environmental Lobby is opposed to the reduction of tag fees for the taking of wolves. The use of hunting as a means of management of wolf populations is not cost effective. The Alaska Environmental Lobby cannot support HB26 for the following reasons:

\* This bill is clearly in response to the public's wishes expressed by the passage of Proposition 3. It is not good public policy for legislators to attempt to circumvent the will of the public they serve. This is the kind of legislative micro-management of wildlife that led a frustrated public to pass the initiative in the first place.

\* Economically this bill seems counter productive. HB 26 calls for a reduction of fees for nonresident hunters for the taking of wolves. If wolf sightings are rare, and the number of hunters interested in actually taking them is so few, then realistically there would not be an increase in the sale of wolf tags.

\* From a biological standpoint there is the natural role of the wolf as a control in of the populations of moose, and caribou. Solely pursuing the wolf as an attempt to increase the populations of these ungulates is a poor management tool. The complex relationship between predator and prey cannot easily be controlled. These are dynamic wild relationships not easily subjected to the type of manipulation used with domestic livestock.

This bill is yet more legislation that seeks out the wolf for persecution. By allowing nonresidents to enjoy the reduction in tag fees the State continues to risk negative publicity in regard to its wildlife management strategies.

