

SB

265

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred to Committee: February 23, 1998

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 3/5/98

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered:

SB 265

SENATE BILL NO. 265

MOOSE AS STATE MAMMAL

"An Act designating the moose as the state land mammal."

recommends it be replaced the same title
 with the following committee substitute _____ 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) _____ fiscal note(s) _____

zero fiscal note(s) _____ zero fiscal note(s) SEN STA

SIGNING <u>WITH</u> RECOMMENDATIONS	DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Joannette James</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			✓

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE *Joannette James*

Alaska State Legislature

Committee Membership

Senate Finance
Senate Resources
Senate Rules
Legislative Budget & Audit



Senator John Torgerson

District Address:
145 Main St. Loop, Ste. 226
Kenai, AK 99611
(907) 283-2690
fax 283-9267

Session Address:
State Capitol, Room 514
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-2828
fax 465-4779

SB 265: Designating the Moose as the Land Mammal Sponsor Statement

I was privileged to be contacted last fall by community members who were interested in designating a state land mammal. They had researched the matter and found that while a marine mammal had been designated, we had not officially designated a land mammal. Their intention was to involve the students of Kalifornsky Beach Elementary School with the project from its origin to its completion.

The students conducted research on the various mammals in Alaska, including discussion with a wildlife biologist. They have studied the impact each mammal has had on Alaska's culture and history. They met with members of Soldotna High School's government class, who acted as legislative committee members so the elementary students could practice their presentations.

In December, the students held a primary election, complete with campaign posters done as an art class project. The primary election resulted in a short list of four finalists - the moose, wolf, brown bear, and wolverine. On January 23, 1998, the general election was held and the winner was the moose.

The students will follow this bill, tracking it through the legislative process in both the Senate and the House. They will be involved in public opinion messages and letters of support for the bill. They will ask for the support of the local governments on the Kenai Peninsula.

I am confident of their ability to promote their selection of the moose as Alaska's land mammal, and encourage your support for this measure.

CITY OF SOLDOTNA
RESOLUTION 98-13

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE STUDENTS OF KALIFORNSKY BEACH
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR NOMINATING THE MOOSE AS THE STATE'S
OFFICIAL LAND MAMMAL AND SUPPORTING THEIR PROPOSAL

(Requested by Mayor Lancaster)

WHEREAS, the students of the Kalifornsky Beach Elementary School have worked on a project to select and propose a land mammal for the official state land mammal; and

WHEREAS, they enlisted the support and assistance of Senator John Torgerson with the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, after extensive individual and collective research and discussion, the students conducted a primary and a general election to select the proposed mammal; and

WHEREAS, in the January 23, 1998 general election, the moose was selected, receiving 230 out of 412 votes cast; and

WHEREAS, Senator John Torgerson has sponsored SB 265 naming the moose as the Official State Land Mammal.

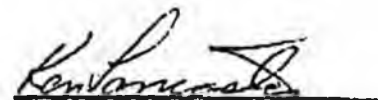
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOLDOTNA, ALASKA:

Section 1. That the Students and Teachers of the Kalifornsky Beach Elementary School be commended for their part in this legislation.

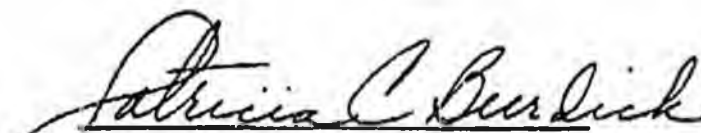
Section 2. That SB 265: Designating the Moose as the Alaska State Land Mammal be is hereby wholeheartedly supported by the City of Soldotna.

Section 3. That this resolution becomes effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this 25th day of February, 1998.


Ken Lancaster, Mayor

ATTEST:


Patricia C. Burdick, CMC, City Clerk

Senator
Torgerson

PHONE MESSAGE

DATE 2-24

TIME 11:45

A.M.
P.M.

FOR

B-

M

Pam Bradley

OF

PHONE (1 235 - 3855 EXT.

 FAX MOBILE PAGER ()


MESSAGE

MOOSE BILL - WANTING

TESTIMONY AGAINST

LAW 3/14/11

<input type="checkbox"/>	URGENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	PHDNED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RETURNED YOUR CALL
<input type="checkbox"/>	PLEASE CALL BACK
<input type="checkbox"/>	WILL CALL AGAIN
<input type="checkbox"/>	WAS IN
<input type="checkbox"/>	WANTS TO SEE YOU

 **AVERY**

SIGNED _____

03/05/98
08:01:21

LEGISLATIVE TELECONFERENCE NETWORK SYSTEM
PARTICIPANT LIST (TESTIFIERS ONLY)

LTN1150
BY:JNU
FOR:ALL

TCN:80380 SCHEDULED FOR:03/05/98 08:00 TO 10:00
PUBLIC HEARING HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS

LOCATION:	KENAI	LIO				
SB 265	MISS	ELYSE	DEHLBOM	K-BEACH	ELEM.	TESTIFY
SB 265	MR.	BLAKE	GABRIEL	K-BEACH	ELEM	TESTIFY
SB 265	MISS	JANELLE	BROWN	K-BEACH	ELEM	TESTIFY
SB 265		ALEX	STORY	K-BEACH	ELEM	TESTIFY
SB 265	MR.	ZACHARY	LESLIE	K-BEACH	ELEM	TESTIFY
SB 265	MISS	ASHLEY	RABALAIS	K-BEACH	ELEM	TESTIFY
SB 265		CASEY	FOSTER	K-BEACH	ELEM	TESTIFY
SB 265	MR.	REMLINGTON	WEST	K-BEACH	ELEM	TESTIFY
SB 265	MISS	JESSICA	WIGGINS	K-BEACH	ELEM	TESTIFY
SB 265	MISS	CORTNI	BROWN	K-BEACH	ELEM	TESTIFY
SB 265	MISS	MANDY	LESLIE	K-BEACH	ELEM	TESTIFY
SB 265	MISS	HANNAH	WEST	K-BEACH	ELEM	TESTIFY
SB 265	MR.	LANDON	DOVER	K-BEACH	ELE.	TESTIFY
SB 265	MISS	ALEX	WEST	K-BEACH	ELEM	TESTIFY
SB 265	MR.	BRIAN	HIBBERD	K-BEACH	ELEM	TESTIFY
SB 265	MR.	RYAN	WALTON	K-BEACH	ELEM	TESTIFY
SB 265	MR.	CLYDE	TOLLEY	K-BEACH	ELEM	TESTIFY

Alaska State Legislature



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Senator John Torgerson

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 23, 1998

TO: Rep. Jeannette James, Chair
House State Affairs Committee

FROM: Senator John Torgerson 

RE: SB 265 - Moose as State Land Mammal

I would appreciate your scheduling this bill before the House State Affairs Committee. As you may know, elementary school students in my district have been working on this matter as a class project.

I expect that they will testify on behalf of their selection and I will work closely with you to assure a smooth presentation before the committee. I anticipate that both their presentation and mine will not exceed 15 minutes.

Transmitted is a Sponsor Statement for the measure; copies of several newspaper articles regarding the matter; and other support letters and resolutions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

YOS

SB 265: Hrg Rqst: H(STA): 2/23/98: mj

Representing the Kenai Peninsula

Kenai Peninsula Borough Alaska

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE STUDENTS AT KALIFORNSKY BEACH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR PROMOTING THE MOOSE AS THE STATE'S OFFICIAL LAND MAMMAL AND OFFICIALLY SUPPORTING THEIR PROPOSAL

WHEREAS, in the late Spring of 1997, the students at Kalifornsky Beach Elementary School embarked on a project to select and propose a land mammal for the official state mammal; and

WHEREAS, students and teachers enlisted the support and assistance of Senator John Torgerson regarding the selection and legislative process; and

WHEREAS, following much individual and collective research, discussion and debate, the students conducted both a primary and general election to select their proposed mammal; and

WHEREAS, the moose was the clear winner in the January 23, 1998 school election, receiving 230 of the 412 votes cast; and

WHEREAS, Senator Torgerson has sponsored SB 265 naming the moose as the Official State Land Animal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

That the students of Kalifornsky Beach Elementary School are hereby commended for their efforts to promote the moose as the State's Official Land Mammal.

That the Legislature is urged to support SB 265 naming the moose as the Official State Land Mammal.

That copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Governor Knowles and the legislators representing the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

**ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
THIS 17th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1998.**



Jack Brown

Jack Brown, Assembly President

ATT...ST:

Linda S. Murphy

Linda S. Murphy, Borough Clerk

SB
265

K-Beach students boost moose

Moose promoted as state's official mammal

By SHANA LOSHBAUGH
Peninsula Clarion

Moose are big, hairy and all over the place, but are they worthy to represent Alaska as the state's official land mammal?

Students at Kalfornsky Beach Elementary School in Soldotna think so. Now they need to convince the state Legislature. The youngsters have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to pick the official critter, to join the roster with other state symbols such as the official mineral (gold) and official fish (king salmon).

Students in kindergarten through sixth grade worked throughout the first semester to pick which animal to nominate, culminating with a vote Friday. The moose won handily with 230 votes, outdistancing the wolf (97 votes), brown bear (57) and wolverine (28), the other three finalists. Now, the students will track their nomination through the Legislature towards official designation.

During the first semester, they studied Alaska's wildlife biology for the project; during the second semester they will learn how government works. Students also will have an opportunity to testify, via teleconference, to legislative com-

mittees in Juneau.

The project was the brainchild of parent volunteer Shannon West. She noticed that the state had an official marine mammal, the bowhead whale, adopted in 1983. But it had no official land mammal.

If the state didn't have one, she wanted to know, could the children suggest one?

She discussed the matter last year with first-grade teacher Terri Carter, who encouraged her to pursue the matter.

They contacted Sen. John Torgerson, R-Kasilof, and he offered to help with the project. This fall, he visited the school and discussed the nomination with students. He intends to introduce a resolution this session to make the K-Beach nomination the official state symbol.

"I wish every school could do something like this," Torgerson said. "Those kids will have learned so much by the time they are done."

The nomination may be controversial, as different regions of the state will promote their own favorite animals. The students will have to do a good job presenting their case, he said.

The students have been marshaling facts all year.

To pick a nominee, they studied Alaska's native mammals in detail,

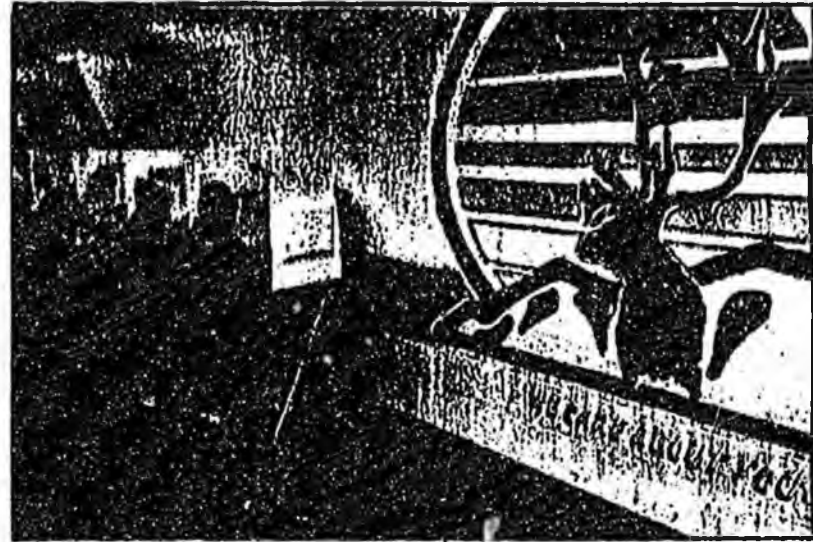


Photo by M. Scott Moon

Students from Irma Peterson's second grade class at Kalfornsky Beach Elementary vote for their candidate for the state's mammal. The school's mascot, the caribou, did not make the primary.

considering their distribution throughout the state, use by humans and significance to history, culture and religion.

The school involved families in the process, too. Teachers encouraged students to discuss the nomination and mammals at home. Students surveyed their parents, tallied the results and displayed them in the school foyer.

Biologist Ted Spraker from the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge visited the school to talk about the animals and answer student questions. Dan Halverson's govern-

ment class from Soldotna High School visited and acted the role of legislative committee members so the elementary students could practice their presentations.

In December, the students held a primary election. As an art project, they made campaign posters and plastered the school hallways.

The primary narrowed the field to the four finalists.

The wolf faction, West noted, staged a veritable media blitz before the primary. The adults involved had worried that the chil-

See MOOSE, back page

Sunday Jan 25

...Moose

Continued from page A-1

dren would chose the controversial canine and face a bumpy ride in the legislature, she said.

Now that the final tally is in, K-

Beach will shift gears from biology to government.

Students will issue public opinion messages and letters to support the senator's resolution and round up support by seeking additional resolutions from the Soldotna City Council and Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly. With commu-

nity support and Torgerson's sponsorship, the bill to make the moose Alaska's official state mammal may pass this session.

The school hopes to end the project with a grand finale if all goes well — an invitation to Gov. Knowles to visit the school and sign the measure into law.

Kids rally behind moose

The Associated Press

KENAI—Moose mania has hit the Kalifornsky Beach Elementary School in Soldotna, where students are pushing to have the big, hairy creatures named as the state's official land mammal.

The project was the brainchild of parent volunteer Shannon West. She noticed that the state had an official marine mammal, the bowhead whale, adopted in 1983. But it had no official land mammal.

If the state didn't have one, she wanted to know, could the

children suggest one? She discussed the matter last year with first-grade teacher Terri Cartor, who encouraged her to pursue the matter.

They contacted Sen. John Torgerson, R-Kasilof, and he offered to help with the project. This fall, he visited the school and discussed the nomination with students. He intends to introduce a resolution this session to designate the moose as official land mammal.

Since the project got started, See MOOSE, Page A-7

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, Monday, January 28, 1998

MOOSE

Continued from Page A-1

students have studied Alaska's wildlife biology to determine which animal should be honored, culminating with a vote Friday. The moose won handily with 230 votes, outdistancing the wolf (97 votes), brown bear (57) and wolverine (28).

During the second semester the students will follow the resolution through the legislative process to learn how government works. Students also will have an opportunity to testify, via teleconference, to legislative committees in Juneau.

"I wish every school could do something like this," Torgerson said. "Those kids will have learned so much by the time they are done."

The nomination may be controversial, as different regions of the state are expected to promote their own favorite animals. The students will have to do a good job presenting their case, he said.

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Biologist Ted Spraker from the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge visited the school to talk about the animals and answer student questions. Dan Halverson's government class from



Associated Press

MAMMAL VOTES—Students at Kalifornsky Beach Elementary School in Soldotna vote Friday to nominate the moose as the state's official land mammal. The school's mascot, the caribou at right, was eliminated in earlier "primary" voting.

Soldotna High School visited and acted the role of legislative committee members so the elementary students could practice their presentations.

In December, the students held a primary election. As an art project, they made campaign posters and plastered the school hallways.

The primary narrowed the field to the four finalists.

The wolf faction staged a veri-

table media blitz before the primary, Wolf said. Some adults were worried that the children would choose the controversial canine and face a bumpy ride in the legislature, she said.

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additional resolutions from the Soldotna City Council and Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly. With community support and Torgerson's sponsorship, the bill to make the moose Alaska's official state mammal may pass this session.

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FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

No. 1
BILL N Bill Version: SB 265
(S) Publish Date: 2/11/98

Revision Date (Note if correction) _____ Dept. Affected _____
 Title Moose as the State Land Mammal BRU _____
 Component _____
 Sponsor Sen. Torgerson etc. _____
 Requester Senate State Affairs Component Serial No. _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY98) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

No fiscal impact expected.

Prepared by Renee Howell Phone 465-4522
 Division Staff to Senate State Affairs Date 2/11/98
 Approved by Senator Lyda Green, Chairman Date 2/11/98
 Agency Senate State Affairs

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