

**SB**

**184**

TONY KNOWLES  
GOVERNOR



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STATE OF ALASKA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
JUNEAU

April 18, 1997

The Honorable Mike Miller  
Senate President  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President <sup>Mike</sup> Miller:

As part of my Marketing Alaska initiative, the seafood industry pointed out that current state confidentiality laws surrounding fisheries tax records are actually a burden because they prohibit the sharing of information between state agencies which need the same records. Rather than reporting these numbers once, the industry must report two or three times on different forms. This bill addresses this wasteful effort by allowing appropriate state agencies to share tax reporting information while ensuring confidentiality is not breached.

Seafood processors, certain fishermen and others currently must report to the Department of Revenue the value of the fisheries resources processed, taken, purchased, or otherwise acquired during the license year. This information is confidential. The Department of Fish and Game independently collects product value figures as part of its reporting requirements for seafood processors. In addition, seafood processors have asked the Department of Environmental Conservation to base its sliding scale of permit fees on product value. The current confidentiality requirement prevents exchanges of this information between the Department of Revenue and the other two departments. The result is inconsistent data, inefficient operations, and complicated and duplicative reporting requirements for industry.

The Marketing Alaska Seafood Sector Group recommended agency databases be consolidated in order to streamline reporting requirements. This would allow access by the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of Fish and Game to

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a common Department of Revenue database. Any personnel granted access to this tax information would be subject to the same confidentiality requirements as the Department of Revenue. At the same time, the bill promotes a reciprocal exchange of information with the Department of Fish and Game, whose confidential information is already accessible by the Department of Revenue.

This bill represents a logical solution to a current burden for the seafood industry. I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tony Knowles".

Tony Knowles  
Governor

FISCAL NOTE

No. 1  
Bill Version: SB 184  
(S) Publish Date: 4/22/97

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Revenue  
Title: Confidential Fish Tax Records BRU: Revenue Operations  
Component: Income and Excise Audit  
Sponsor: (H) RLS  
Requestor: Gov COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 113

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						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )						
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FUND SOURCE: (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill has no fiscal impact on the Department of Revenue.

Prepared by: Robert Bartholomew Phone: 465-4773  
Division: Income and Excise Audit Date: March 10, 1997  
Approved by Commissioner: Wilson L. Condon Date: March 10, 1997  
Agency: Revenue

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