

HB

114

Board of Game
PO Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802

Honorable Scott Ogan, Co-Chair
House Resources Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 128
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

MAR 26 1999

March 24, 1999

Dear Representative Ogan:

In official action at the March meeting of the Alaska Board of Game, the board has endorsed SB-74, same-day airborne for wolves by Department agents, and HB-114, eliminating the annual requirement for reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts.

The board recognizes the importance of predator control in managing Alaska's resources, and feels that the passage of Ballot Measure 3 in 1996 severely restricted the board's and the Department's ability to implement such action. By allowing Department personnel and agents to use same-day-airborne, and eliminating the "irreversible decline" clause, we feel that management of the state's wolves will be more readily attainable.

Regarding the reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts, the board agrees that the requirement to do so annually is a burden on the system. With our regional 2-year meeting cycle, the Department must have personnel travel long distances to address these reauthorizations. In cases where the hunt may not occur due to population estimates or bull:cow ratios, the hunt is reauthorized anyway, so that it is not lost in the future. By eliminating the annual reauthorization requirement, the board and Department will have more flexibility in using antlerless hunts in managing moose populations.

We encourage passage of both bills, and encourage distribution of this letter to other concerned legislators.

Sincerely,



Michael Fleagle,
Member, Board of Game

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1999 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 114

Revision Date (Note if correction) _____ Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
 Title Repeal Prohibition Antlerless Moose BRU Boards of Fisheries and Game
 Component Boards Services
 Sponsor Rep. Masek
 Requester (H) RES Component Serial No. 482

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05
Personal Services	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.3)
Travel	(4.2)	(4.2)	(4.2)	(4.2)	(4.2)	(4.2)
Contractual	(3.5)	(3.5)	(3.5)	(3.5)	(3.5)	(3.5)
Supplies	(0.9)	(0.9)	(0.9)	(0.9)	(0.9)	(0.9)
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	(8.9)	(8.9)	(8.9)	(8.9)	(8.9)	(8.9)

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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CHANGE IN REVENUES (1024)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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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 -- F&G Fund (1024)	(8.9)	(8.9)	(8.9)	(8.9)	(8.9)	(8.9)
TOTAL	(8.9)	(8.9)	(8.9)	(8.9)	(8.9)	(8.9)

Estimate of any current year (FY99) 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)

A breakdown in cost savings is as follows: Personal Services--overtime for staff; Travel--per diem and board member honorarium; Contractual--printing, room rent, coffee; Supplies--office supplies.

Prepared by Laird Jones, Executive Director *Laird Jones* Phone 465-6098
 Division Boards Support Section, Div. of Administration Date 3/3/99
 Approved by Commissioner *[Signature]* Date 3/12/99
 Agency Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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Representative Beverly Masek

Sponsor Statement for HB 114

Anterless Moose Hunts

HB 114 will remove the statutory stipulation requiring Advisory Committees to approve anterless hunts before the Board of Game can implement them. This will effectively reduce the time involved in implementing anterless hunts, as well as save approximately ten to twenty thousand dollars.

Since 1975 the State Board of Game has been required to obtain the approval of a majority of the local advisory committees in proximity to the game management unit for which the hunt is proposed. To date, this requirement has caused the Department and the Board a great deal of time and some expense to pursue anterless moose hunts. Originally this provision was instigated on behalf of Alaskans who felt cow moose hunts were wrong for a variety of reasons regardless of biological evidence. Since then the Department has managed to educate most Alaskans about the benefits of anterless hunts in relation to overall population dynamics and quality of habitat. Because of that effort anterless hunts are rarely opposed today.

Anterless moose hunts have rarely been opposed under the current system and Advisory Committees still have considerable clout within the Board of Game process. If a majority of the Advisory Committees wished to stop an anterless hunt, experience shows that the Board of Game will go along with them 99% of time.

HB 114 will benefit the State and the Board of Game by streamlining the regulatory process providing a cost savings to the state in time and money.

Article 06. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 16.05.780. Taking of antlerless moose prohibited.

(a) The taking of antlerless moose in any game management unit or subunit or a portion of a unit or subunit is prohibited except that antlerless moose may be taken only under regulations adopted under (b) of this section after

(1) the department recommends the season be opened in that year, based on biological evidence, and

(2) a majority of active local advisory committees for that unit or subunit have recommended an opening for that year, after each has taken a vote and a majority of the members of those committees have voted in the affirmative.

(b) Pursuant to (a) of this section the board, in its regularly scheduled annual game board meeting, may adopt regulations for the taking of antlerless moose in any game management unit or subunit in any year.

History -

(Sec. 1 ch 113 SLA 1975)

Decisions -

Quoted in *Bobby v. Alaska*, 718 F. Supp. 764 (D. Alaska 1989).