

HB

164

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 25526
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January 20, 2000

The Honorable Bill Hudson
Co-Chair, House Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 108
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Beverly Masek
Co-Chair, House Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 128
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representatives Hudson and Masek:

I am writing to request the House Resources Committee schedule House Bill 164, which authorizes the electronic sale and issuance of hunting and fishing licenses, permits and tags. This bill will make it more convenient for the public to immediately purchase licenses and tags needed to hunt and fish in the state.

The Department of Fish and Game has worked closely with the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Law in drafting this bill. Individuals may now apply for licenses using either an 800 phone number or a computer and the Internet. The applicant subsequently receives his or her license by mail.

This bill will allow the department to institute a paperless licensing system that allows applicants, upon successful completion of an electronic licensing process, to be immediately issued a valid license to hunt or fish. This system provides the maximum convenience to the public by allowing the purchase of a valid license 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Several other states, including Idaho, Georgia, Florida, Texas, and Nebraska, are using some variation of electronic means to sell and issue hunting and fishing licenses. These systems have been well received by the hunting and fishing public. We have contacted fish and wildlife management and enforcement personnel in several of these states and they also report that electronic licensing has been performing successfully.

The department is always looking for ways to involve more people in hunting and fishing, and we believe that making it easier to get licensed is an effective means to that end. I hope you will schedule a hearing on this bill as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Frank Rue
Commissioner

cc: Pat Pourchot
Ron Otte
Geron Bruce

AMENDMENT

OFFERED BY ADF&G

TO: FB 164

Page 1, line 8:

Following "surcharge":

Insert "not to exceed existing compensation to vendors or three dollars,
whichever is less"

Sectional Analysis of House Bill 164

Section 1 authorizes the commissioner to add a processing fee for any additional costs for electronic issuance of a license or tag.

Section 2 authorizes the commissioner, with the concurrence of the commissioner of public safety, to accept and process electronic applications; and describes the requirements to purchase a license electronically.

To purchase a license electronically, an applicant must submit the information required by the department; and possess, when applying for a license, a valid identification card bearing a picture of the applicant. If a paper license is issued, the applicant must sign it to be valid. There must be a notice on the electronic application form, and any paper license, permit, or tag, stating the provisions and penalties for making false statements or material omissions when applying for hunting or fishing licenses, permits, and tags.

The commissioner of fish and game and commissioner of public safety are authorized to adopt regulations to interpret or implement their duties under this statute.

"Electronic" is defined as a means of licensing using the Internet, electronic mail, a toll-free telephone number, or other means using telephone lines or communication between electronic computing devices. "Identification card" means a card issued by a state or federal agency or other organization designated by the Alaska Department of Public Safety.

Section 3 authorizes the commissioner of fish and game to enter into contracts with private vendors to provide processing and issuance of electronic licenses, permits and tags.

Section 4 provides that contractors authorized to issue electronic licenses may only collect fees as allowed by the contract; they could not, for example, also collect vendor compensation as set by statute.

Section 5 amends definition of application process to also include electronic applications.

Section 6 establishes that a licensee who has purchased an electronic license, permit or tag must carry a current and valid picture identification card and the electronic number issued for the fishing or hunting activity in which they are engaged. The licensee must provide the identification card and license number(s) to peace officers or other persons authorized by the commissioner. The licensee must also corroborate any information about the status and validity of any electronic license issued to the licensee.

Section 7 allows the commissioner to determine effective date of electronic issuance of licenses, permits and tags, and to convey that date to the lieutenant governor and revisor of the statutes.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 164

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction) _____ Dept. Affected Fish and Game
 Title FISH & GAME LICENSING BY ELECTRONICS BRU Admin. & Support
 Component Admin. Services
 Sponsor House Rules Committee
 Requester House Resources Committee Component No. 479

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
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 (FY2000) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Kevin Brooks *Kevin Brooks* Phone 465-5999
 Division Administration Date/Time 2/15/00 2:10 PM
 Approved by Commissioner Frank Rue *Frank Rue* Date 02/15/2000
 Agency Department of Fish and Game

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FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSHB 164(RES)

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction) 2/21/00 Dept. Affected Fish and Game
 Title FISH & GAME LICENSING BY ELECTRONICS BRU Admin. & Support
 Component Admin. Services
 Sponsor House Rules Committee
 Requester House Resources Committee Component No. 479

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POSITIONS

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Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

See attached

Prepared by: Kevin Brooks Phone 465-5999
 Division Administration Date/Time 2/21/00 10:42 AM
 Approved by Commissioner Frank Rue Date 02/21/2000
 Agency Department of Fish and Game

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Fiscal note for CSHB 164(RES)

Analysis:

This bill provides for the electronic issuance of hunting and fishing licenses, tags and permits. This process is intended to be a convenience to the public and will complement the current paper system that will continue to be offered and account for the vast majority of sales. The state currently sells over 700,000 pieces of licensing stock annually, generating over \$20 million in revenue, and pays out approximately \$2 million in vendor compensation.

Any licenses sold by the state as a license vendor will result in the foregone vendor compensation remaining in the Fish and Game fund pending appropriation by the Legislature through the normal budget process. Any fees assessed by a vendor for providing electronic licenses are anticipated to be less than the amount currently paid out as vendor compensation. In the event that an electronic vendor, through a competitive solicitation process, charges more than the current allowance for vendor compensation, the bill allows for a surcharge (or convenience fee) of not more than \$3 to be assessed by the vendor.