

HJR

53

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HJR53

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction) _____ Dept. Affected Office of the Governor
 Title Constitutional Amendment: wild food BRU Elective Operations
 resources _____ Component Elections
 Sponsor Representative Masek
 Requester House Resources Committee Component No. 21

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	1.5					
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	1.5	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	1.5					
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2000) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This figure includes the cost of providing information about this issue in the Official Election Pamphlet, as required by AS 15.58. However, only six measures can be printed on an 8-1/2 by 14 inch ballot. If this measure requires printing an 8-1/2 by 18 inch ballot, the cost will increase by \$22.0.

Prepared by: Gail Fenumai *Gail Fenumai* Phone 465-3935
 Division Division of Elections Date/Time 2/23/00 3:20 PM
 Approved by: Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer *Fran Ulmer* Date 02/23/2000
 Agency Office of the Lieutenant Governor

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Sponsor Statment for HB 349

Fish and Game/Refuges/Habitat & Use Areas

An Act relating to powers of the Board of Game, means of access for hunting, trapping, and fishing, the definition of 'means' and 'methods', and hunting safety education and game conservation education programs; relating to the purposes of game refuges, fish and game critical habitat areas, and public use areas.

Posted: February, 2000

HB 349 was introduced, along with HJR 53, to alleviate the problems many Alaskans face due to the inability of the State to provide adequate management and protection to those traditional uses of wildlife that have sustained many Alaskans, including Native Alaskans throughout time.

Since the mid-1970's, the imposition of "urban" values on those Alaskans who choose to remain in a culture that is tied closely to the land has escalated. Although little or no scientific evidence exists to discredit traditional management techniques of wildlife resources for human consumptive uses, the zealots in the environmental movement continue to try and force their belief system on the rest of society by denying access to proven remedies supportive of human consumptive values.

Although Alaskans who fish, hunt and trap may not be able to agree upon specific allocation remedies due to competition inherent among all consumptive users of the resource, including non-human predators, we should be able to agree on the necessity of protecting those cultural values from constant attack by those whose values differ. HJR 53 and HB 349 is part of the plan to move us back towards rules that require respect for differing values. I have never heard of a fisher, hunter, or trapper speak in front of the Board of Fish or Board of Game requesting non-consumptive uses be eliminated in any part of Alaska; however we constantly hear from the environmental community about how their beliefs are somehow superior to the beliefs of others and

should therefore be imposed upon the rest of us.

Mankind has been competing with non-human predators for thousands of years and part of that competitive struggle has included a variety of measures intended to lesson the competition. With the advent of modern wildlife conservation sciences, we reached a stage where we could insure the health of all species and sustain meaningful levels of human harvests. That is until recently when animal rights activists essentially eliminated sustained yield management.

HJR 53 and HB 349 should mark the beginning of our attempt to fight back by once again allowing for proven management techniques to take place. Sound scientific measures minus the emotional hysteria will insure that the important cultural values attendant to fishing, hunting and trapping are protected. It is also important to make sure that we continue the prohibition against using the government to impose personal values held by one segment of the population on others. And make no mistake about it, the use of government processes by environmentalists has only one intended goal, and that is to impose their values on the rest of society regardless of the facts.

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HJR 53 ~ Constitutional Amendment: Wild Food Resources

TO: House Resources Committee Members
FROM: Susan Schrader, Conservation Advocate
DATE: February 28, 2000

Alaska Conservation Voters, formerly Alaska Conservation Voice, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to protecting Alaska's environment through public education and advocacy. Our 40 Alaskan organizations and business members represent over 22,000 registered Alaskan voters. Our members can be found in all user groups of Alaska's wildlife, including subsistence users, recreational hunters, wildlife viewers, and photographers. We respect and appreciate the long, rich tradition held by Alaskans, Native and non-Native alike, that surrounds our state's wildlife resources. We also acknowledge that opportunities to use and appreciate our wildlife belong to all Americans and to visitors to our state from other countries.

Alaska Conservation Voters supports wildlife management actions that are based on unbiased scientific studies and that reflect the values of most Alaskans. We are greatly concerned by the continued positions taken by the State Legislature that fail to recognize the legislators' responsibilities under the Alaska constitution and the public trust doctrine to care for our wildlife for the benefit of *all* Alaskans.

We are opposed to HJR 53 for the following reasons:

- In Section 1 of the resolution, the substitution of "enhanced" for "developed" appears to be an effort to enshrine the near-sighted principles of intensive game management into the Alaska constitution. Whereas the development of replenishable resources embodies a range of policies that address the long-term benefits of these resources for all user groups, the enhancement of them clearly mandates policies aimed, single-mindedly, at increasing the resources without consideration of other biologic principles.
- Section 2 creates a preferred use for wildlife, and in turn, a preferred user group. Instead of facilitating a constructive public policy debate on the balanced use of our wildlife resources, this language will only result in tremendous problems in its application in management decisions. The potential could exist that, as a result of this language, other groups would be essentially excluded from use of the resource, a situation that may run afoul of the "common use" safeguards of the constitution.

Clearly recognizing the volatile and divisive nature of issues surrounding wildlife management, the members of Alaska Conservation Voters join with other Alaskans who are calling for balanced, fair and far-sighted wildlife management decisions based upon the best, most comprehensive, unbiased scientific data available. The amendments to our constitution proposed in HJR 53 will do little to help resolve this difficult public policy debate.


Susan E. Schrader

Conserve Alaska. It's Only Natural.