

SB

267

Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR
PETER KELLY

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Senate

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Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 267

“An Act relating to management of game.”

Senate Bill 267 directs the Commissioner of Fish and Game to “accord a high priority to the implementation of programs and regulations adopted by the Board of Game under AS 16.05.255(e) – (i)” which provides for intensive management programs to restore the abundance or productivity of identified big game prey populations as necessary to achieve human consumptive use goals of the board. This bill directs the commissioner to allocate fiscal and staff resources to implement intensive game management programs and regulations in a timely and effective manner.

Senate Bill 267 amends AS 16.05.255 by adding a new subsection which provides for the taking of wolves on the same day airborne. Further, a hunting or trapping license is a permit to take a wolf. The board or department may require no additional permit. The prohibition of same-day airborne hunting (AS 16.050783) would not apply when the Board of Game has adopted regulations to provide for intensive management of an identified big game prey population.

This bill also authorizes an agent of the Department of Fish and Game, as part of a game management program, to shoot or assist in shooting predators on the same day airborne.

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3/6/00

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 267()

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS PETE KELLY, Taylor

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to management of game."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 *** Section 1.** AS 16.05.050 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

4 (c) The commissioner shall accord a high priority to the implementation of
5 programs and regulations adopted by the Board of Game under AS 16.05.255(e) - (i)
6 and shall allocate fiscal and staff resources of the department as necessary to
7 implement those programs and regulations in a timely and effective manner.

8 *** Sec. 2.** AS 16.05.255 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

9 (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, in an area for which the
10 board has adopted regulations under (e) of this section to provide for intensive
11 management of an identified big game prey population, a person may take a wolf on
12 the same day the person was airborne; however, a person may not shoot a wolf from
13 the air under this subsection. For purposes of this subsection, a valid hunting or
14 trapping license is a permit to take a wolf on the same day airborne for purposes of
15 protecting wildlife, and no additional permit may be required by the board or

1 department as a prerequisite to taking a wolf on the same day airborne.

2 * Sec. 3. AS 16.05.783(b) is amended to read:

3 (b) This section does not apply to

4 (1) a person who was airborne the same day if that person was airborne
5 only on a regularly scheduled commercial flight; or

6 (2) an employee or agent of the department who, as part of a game
7 management program, is authorized to shoot or to assist in shooting wolf, wolverine,
8 fox, or lynx on the same day that the employee or agent has been airborne.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 267

Revision Date (Note if correction) _____ Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
 Title Management of Game BRU Wildlife Conservation
 Component Wildlife Conservation
 Sponsor Senator P. Kelly
 Requester Senate Resources Component Serial No. 473

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY2006
Personal Services	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0
Travel	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
Contractual	280.0	280.0	280.0	280.0	280.0	280.0
Supplies	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0
Equipment	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	600.0	600.0	600.0	600.0	600.0	600.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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CHANGE IN REVENUES (1024)	(2,882.4)	(2,882.4)	(2,882.4)	(2,882.4)	(2,882.4)	(2,882.4)
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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)	600.0	600.0	600.0	600.0	600.0	600.0
TOTAL	600.0	600.0	600.0	600.0	600.0	600.0

Estimate of any current year (FY00) 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)

Assumption: Section 3 limits adoption of regulations by the Board of Game to those "necessary for game management in accordance with scientific principles of biological resource management." It is unclear whether this change will impact existing regulations, however it would eliminate authority to regulate in all areas which are *not* necessary for scientific/biological management, including fair chase, ethical behavior, public safety, hunter education, wanton waste, DLP, resource allocation, etc. The division anticipates a large decline in nonresident hunting and subsequent loss of license/tag revenue due to elimination of such regulations. Up to 50% of nonresidents may be unlikely to hunt in a state that does not regulate fair chase, ethics, and safety. Altho' difficult to predict, such a decline in nonresident hunters would result in a loss to the F&G Fund of nearly \$3.0 million/annum. If these lost revenues are not replaced with General Funds, the department would be forced to eliminate many programs and may not have enough funding to capture all available federal aid funds, which could then revert to the federal gov't. (See continuation sheet)

Prepared by Wayne Regelin, Director *WRegelin* Phone 465-4190
 Division Wildlife Conservation Date 3/3/00
 Approved by Frank Rue, Commissioner *Frank Rue* Date _____
 Agency Alaska Department of Fish and Game 1

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Analysis (continued):

Section 2 requires the dept. to preferentially fund "intensive management" programs approved by the board.

For the purposes of this fiscal note, we made the following assumptions: (1) only two "intensive management" programs will be implemented at any one time. If additional "intensive management" programs are authorized, the operating expenditures will multiply in direct proportion to the number of such programs; (2) the cost of each intensive management program is estimated at \$150.0/year, including 50.0 to extend existing seasonal positions, 70.0 in contractual costs (primarily air charter, equipment maintenance, misc. professional services), and 15.0 in supplies (for field activities, aircraft fuel, animal immobilization, etc.); (3) each control program would run concurrently with a comprehensive survey and monitoring program to monitor its effectiveness and ensure the predator populations are "protected and maintained," as required by Section 1. The survey/monitoring effort is expected to cost an additional \$150.0 or approximately the same as the control effort.