

**HB**

**260**

<TARGET><BILL>HB 260</BILL><SUBJECT>HB  
260</SUBJECT><COMM>HFSH30</COMM></TARGET>

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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## REPRESENTATIVE DAN SADDLER

### House Bill 260 -- Sponsor Statement

*"An Act relating to electronic possession of certain licenses, tags, and identification cards issued by the Department of Fish and Game; and providing for an effective date."*

Smart phones have become an indispensable part of modern Alaska life. They provide users with inexpensive, convenient and reliable information and services, including communications, navigation, scheduling, research, photography, and entertainment. There is almost no aspect of life that smartphones don't make easier and better.

HB 260 seeks to leverage modern communications technology to enhance the timeless pleasures of traditional Alaskan activities of hunting, fishing, and trapping, by allowing state licenses for these activities to be displayed on digital devices, as well as in paper form.

State law currently requires outdoorsmen and women to carry paper licenses while enjoying licensed activities. But as anyone who's ever tumbled into a stream while landing a king salmon, or sat in the rain in a duck blind knows, paper licenses can be damaged or lost at the worst possible time. And while a person might misplace their wallet, their smartphone is almost always within arm's reach.

Alaskans have been authorized since 2013 to display secure proof of insurance on a digital device, and the benefits of extending that capability to outdoors recreational licenses are clear. They would:

- Make it easier and more convenient for hunters, fishers and trappers to obtain and carry required licenses
- Help entice new participants in these activities, by lowering one barrier to entry
- Make Alaska a more attractive tourist destination by making it easier for visitors to get licenses
- Improve compliance with state fish and wildlife management laws, by making it easier for enforcement officials to verify users are legal
- Save money for the state and private license vendors, by reducing or eliminating printing costs
- Enhance licensing security with harder-to-counterfeit digital licenses

HB 260 also lays the foundation for smartphone-based "apps" that will eventually let ADF&G deliver timely information on local regulations, opening dates and times, and hazards to users; while letting outdoorsman reciprocate by sending back real-time data on harvest effort and success. Until then, the advantages of digital licenses are significant enough to warrant swift passage of HB 260.

###

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unapologetically **FOR ALASKAN RESIDENTS**

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January 27, 2018

To: Representative Dan Saddler

Re: HB 260 – Fish & Game Licenses – Electronic Form

Dear Representative Saddler,

Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK) **supports** HB 260A as currently worded to allow for the possession of a hunting/fishing/trapping license in an electronic format to serve as legal proof of licensure.

We currently allow verification of car insurance by law enforcement authorities in electronic format on a cell phone. There is no reason we can't do the same with a fishing/hunting/trapping license.

With RHAK membership we give out a hunting license "baggie," similar to what ADFG has given out in the past, to protect a hunting license from water. It's not uncommon for a hunter to somehow get a license wet and obscure the information on the license.

These days most hunters and anglers carry their cell phone with them in the field, and the ability to also "carry" a hunting license in digital format on a cell phone would provide a redundant benefit (forgot license, license was lost, got wet etc) in complying with carrying a license when hunting or fishing.

There may be concerns that an electronic format doesn't allow a duck stamp or salmon stamp to be affixed, as with a paper license. Hunters would still have to carry paper harvest tickets and permits.

Currently one can apply online for a hunt/fish/trap license, pay online and then print out a copy of the license at home. Essentially this is already an electronic copy that could be stored on a phone, just like car insurance verification, at no cost to the state. It makes sense to allow that electronic copy to serve as proof of licensure just like the paper copy.

Sincerely,

Mark Richards  
Executive Director Resident Hunters of Alaska



# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2018 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 260  
Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier: HB260-DFG-CO-02-16-18  
Title: FISH & GAME LICENSES;ELECTRONIC FORM  
Sponsor: SADDLER  
Requester: House Fisheries Committee

Department: Department of Fish and Game  
Appropriation: Statewide Support Services  
Allocation: Commissioner's Office  
OMB Component Number: 2175

**Expenditures/Revenues**

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

|                               | FY2019<br>Appropriation<br>Requested | Included in<br>Governor's<br>FY2019<br>Request | Out-Year Cost Estimates |            |            |            |            |            |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                               |                                      |  | FY 2019                 | FY 2020    | FY 2021    | FY 2022    | FY 2023    | FY 2024    |
| <b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b> |                                      |  |                         |            |            |            |            |            |
| Personal Services             |                                      |  |                         |            |            |            |            |            |
| Travel                        |                                      |  |                         |            |            |            |            |            |
| Services                      |                                      |  |                         |            |            |            |            |            |
| Commodities                   |                                      |  |                         |            |            |            |            |            |
| Capital Outlay                |                                      |  |                         |            |            |            |            |            |
| Grants & Benefits             |                                      |  |                         |            |            |            |            |            |
| 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> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

|              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| None         |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| <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> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

**Positions**

|           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Full-time |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Part-time |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Temporary |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Change in Revenues**

|              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| None         |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| <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> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

**Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2018) cost:** 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**Estimated CAPITAL (FY2019) cost:** 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS**

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No  
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? n/a

**Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:**

Initial version.

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Prepared By: <u>Morgan Foss, Special Assistant to the Commissioner</u> | Phone: <u>(907)465-6137</u>      |
| Division: <u>Office of the Commissioner</u>                            | Date: <u>02/16/2018 06:00 PM</u> |
| Approved By: <u>Carol Petraborg, Director</u>                          | Date: <u>02/16/18</u>            |
| Agency: <u>Division of Administrative Services</u>                     |                                  |

## FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 260

### Analysis

This bill describes how a person holding a Fish and Game sport fishing, hunting, trapping license, or Permanent Identification Card may display a valid copy (a sport fishing, hunting, or trapping license must be signed in order to be considered valid) in paper or electronic format to an enforcement agent as proof of possession. The department does not foresee that any statute or regulation currently restricts a user from displaying the actual license in either paper or electronic format, so long as the license is valid and signed.

**Fish and Game regulation 5 AAC 75.006(a) requires** that, (1) a nontransferable harvest record must be in possession of each person taking and retaining a finfish for which an annual limit has been established; for a licensed angler, a harvest record appears on the back of the angler's sport fishing license, a harvest record may be obtained, without charge, from department offices and fishing license vendors; (2) immediately upon landing a finfish for which an annual limit has been established, the angler shall enter the date, location (body of water fished), and species of the catch, in ink, on the harvest record.

**Fish and Game regulation 5 AAC 92.010 requires** that, (a) the number of each harvest ticket issued to a hunter must be entered on the hunter's license. A harvest ticket issued the previous calendar year and still valid must also be entered on the hunting license.

The department does not currently have the technological ability to offer digital recording of harvest on an electronic copy of the license. An electronic copy of a valid license would need to include the Harvest Ticket Number(s) on the original license prior to the creation of that electronic image if the user were to legally engage in those activities. If the user intends to exclusively use the electronic copy of the valid, signed license for sport fishing for a species with an established annual limit, the user would need to maintain a separate paper copy of a harvest record for the purpose of immediately recording harvest of those species.