



Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Web: www.akrepublicans.org

Sponsor: Senator Con Bunde
Current Version: SB 166
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Fact Sheet for: Senate Bill 166

Short Title: WLDLIFE CONSERVATION TAG

Summary:

- Requires people who use the services of a touring or recreational service that provides an opportunity to view public wildlife in Alaska to purchase a \$5 wildlife conservation tag.
- Makes certain exemptions, including people under the age of 16; residents 60 years of age or older; holders of fishing, hunting or trapping licenses; employees of commercial tourism providers or transportation industry; residents traveling to or from their residences on the Alaska railroad or marine highway system; the legally blind and disabled veterans.
- Establishes a wildlife conservation account in the fish and game fund into which proceeds from the tag shall be deposited and may be appropriated for fish and wildlife management programs that benefit purchasers of the wildlife conservation tag.
- States the intent of the legislature to use proceeds to pay part of the costs for providing services to travelers and tourists to enhance the opportunity to view wildlife, and to enhance the safety and efficiency of interstate and foreign commerce in the state.
- Establishes compensation for vendors who participate in collecting the fee and distributing the tag.

Benefits:

- Provides new revenue that may be used to support fish and wildlife management in Alaska.
- Shares the burden of supporting wildlife management with non-consumptive users.

Background:

- The State of Alaska spends significant resources to manage fish and wildlife. Existing law requires hunters, fishermen and other consumptive users of fish and wildlife to buy licenses, but does not assess a fee for non-consumptive uses of fish and wildlife such as wildlife viewing. This bill provides a mechanism to spread the cost of paying for wildlife management among people who pay for the opportunity to view fish and wildlife but do not possess a hunting or fishing license.