

Developing Our Resources, Protecting Our Environment

Alaskans depend heavily on the state's fish, game and other natural resources. Natural resources are the foundation of Alaska's way of life, providing economic, cultural and recreational benefits. The Republican-led Majority continued its commitment to manage the state's resources for the maximum benefit of all Alaskans.

House Bill 154: Collection of Fishery Business Taxes

Sponsored by Rep. Drew Scalzi

House Bill 154 exempts certain fish brokers from certain state bonding requirements related to payment of fisheries business taxes. Under the bill, brokers who buy and sell but do not process, fishery products and who pay their annual tax liability on a monthly basis will be exempt from more stringent bonding required of fish processors, as long as they either post a \$50,000 bond or prove to the state they own \$100,000 worth of lienable real property in Alaska.

House Bill 194: Entry Permit Fees

Sponsored by Rep. Gary Stevens

House Bill 194 stops the state from charging non-resident commercial fishermen three times the resident rate for limited entry permits, as was struck down by the Alaska Superior Court, and instead lets the state set non-resident permit rates at the maximum amount allowed under whatever formula is approved by the courts following appeal of the issue to the Alaska Supreme Court.

House Joint Resolution 6: Roadless Policy

Sponsored by Rep. Peggy Wilson

House Joint Resolution 6 declares Alaska's opposition to former President Clinton's inclusion of the Tongass and Chugach National Forests in a national ban on road construction in national forests.

House Joint Resolution 7: Endorsing ANWR Leasing

Sponsored by Rep. Beverly Masek

House Joint Resolution 7 expresses the continuing desire of the Alaska Legislature to see the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge opened to petroleum exploration and development.

House Joint Resolution 10: Groundfish Fisheries and Steller Sea Lions

Sponsored by the House Resources Committee

House Joint Resolution 10 endorses U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens' efforts to delay closure of Alaska's largest ground fishery and to provide more research funding so fisheries management decisions aimed at protecting Steller sea lion populations will be guided by sound science.

House Joint Resolution 19: Digital Orthoimagery and Elevation Data

Sponsored by the House Resources Committee

House Joint Resolution 19 expresses the Alaska Legislature's request for the federal government to fund a \$100 million, comprehensive high-resolution digital orthoimagery and elevation survey of the entire state. Such imaging would replace the obsolete U.S. Geological Survey maps of Alaska with highly accurate database, including geographic contours and elevations, that could provide wide benefits in land use, resource development, public access, public safety, transportation, land use planning and many other applications.

House Joint Resolution 26: Steller Sea Lion Research Team to Alaska

Sponsored by Rep. Gary Stevens

House Joint Resolution 26 calls on the National Marine Fisheries Service to relocate a team performing research into Alaska's declining Steller sea lion from Seattle to Alaska.

Senate Bill 16: Oil Discharge Prevention: Non-tank Vessels and Railroad

Sponsored by the Senate Rules Committee at the request of the Commission on Motorized Oil Transport
Senate Bill 16 puts in place the recommendations of the task force created by Senate Bill 273 and House Concurrent Resolution 28 during the 21st Alaska State Legislature. SB 16 expands the oil spill prevention and response program to include larger non-tank vessels and the railroads transporting oil in bulk. This legislation would require that these vessels and the railroad provide a response plan for cleaning up spills as quickly as possible to minimize damage to the environment.

Senate Bill 60: Farm Operations: Disclosure/Nuisances

Sponsored by Sen. Lyda Green

Senate Bill 60 adds protection to existing agriculture operations and would protect new property owners within one mile of the operation through full disclosure that they are buying property close to an agricultural facility.

Senate Bill 76: Right-of-Way Leasing Act: Term and Renewal

Sponsored by Sen. Gene Therriault

Senate Bill 76 increases the maximum term of right-of-way lease renewals from the current 10 years to 30 years. The bill would also allow for the extension of existing leases under current terms if the lessee has applied for renewal, but the terms of the lease are still under negotiation at the date of expiration.

Senate Bill 77: Net Profit Share Under/Over Payments

Sponsored by Sen. John Torgerson

Senate Bill 77 requires the Department of Natural Resources to calculate interest on small over or underpayments of royalty if the interest is \$150 or less. The department is currently exempted from these calculations because it was not cost effective to track them. With the advent of a computer tracking system and electronic wiring of funds, these small amount transactions can be cost-effectively calculated and collected or repaid.

Senate Bill 84: Public Utility Joint Action Agencies

Sponsored by Sen. Robin Taylor

Senate Bill 84 clarified the status of the Joint Action Agency, created to purchase and own the Four Dam Pool hydroelectric facilities, with regard to taxes, regulation, and its relationship with the member utilities.

Senate Bill 121: Right-of-Way Leasing Act

Sponsored by Sen. Loren Leman

Senate Bill 121 clarifies Alaska's Right-of-Way Leasing Act and assist the permitting process for a North Slope gas pipeline. The bill identifies when design revision constitutes a "substantial change" in an application and requires restarting the entire administrative process.

Senate Bill 143: Right-of-Way Leasing Act: Application Cost

Sponsored by the Senate Resources Committee

Senate Bill 143 authorizes the State of Alaska to be reimbursed for work performed by the State Pipeline Coordinator's Office (SPCO) in preparing to receive and process an application for a gas pipeline right-of-way lease. It also clarifies that an applicant must reimburse the SPCO for costs incurred in processing an application whether or not the application is granted.

Senate Bill 156: Best Interest Finding under Alaska Land Act

Sponsored by the Senate Resources Committee

Senate Bill 156 amends the Alaska Land Act to clarify the requirement of a single written best interest finding required for the sale, lease, or other disposal of state land or resources or an interest in them.

Senate Bill 164: No Gas Pipeline Over Beaufort Sea

Sponsored by the Alaska Senate

Senate Bill 164 prohibits leases under the Right-of-Way Leasing Act on the State of Alaska's submerged lands in the Beaufort Sea. This would remove the proposed "over-the-top" natural gas pipeline route from consideration.

Senate Joint Resolution 7: Reinstate Wilderness Study Prohibition

Sponsored by the Senate Resources Committee

Senate Joint Resolution 7 urges President Bush to reinstate the federal directive that Bureau of Land Management land in Alaska may not be considered for wilderness reviews in accordance with the "no more clause" of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). This directive was reversed by Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt in a last-minute action at the end of President Clinton's administration.

Senate Joint Resolution 10: U.S. Coast Guard Funding

Sponsored by Sen. Alan Austerman

Senate Joint Resolution 10 urges the United States Congress to fully fund the United States Coast Guard's operational readiness and recapitalization requirements. Full funding will ensure that this humanitarian arm of the nation's national security system remains *semper paratus* – "Always Ready."

Senate Joint Resolution 15: Chilean Farmed Salmon

Sponsored by Sen. Alan Austerman

Senate Joint Resolution 15 urges the U.S. State Department to consider the negative impact imported salmon has on the Alaskan economy. The import of Chilean farmed salmon into the United States has grown 120 percent in the last five years, and this salmon directly competes with Alaska salmon in the national market. The resolution also supports the imposition of import restrictions on salmon products from Chile during from May 15 through October and increased import tariffs on salmon products from Chile during the remainder of the year.