



11A3

Haines Borough Assembly Agenda Bill

Agenda Bill No.: 24-1347

Assembly Meeting Date: 02/13/24

Business Item Description:

Subject: Support for HB 201

Originator:
Manager

Originating Department:
Administration

Date Submitted:
01/30/24

Attachments:

1. Resolution 24-02-1090
2. HB 201 Update Representative Rebecca Himschoot

Full Title/Motion:

Motion: Adopt Resolution 24-02-1090

Administrative Recommendation:

Fiscal Impact:

Expenditure Required	Amount Budgeted	Appropriation Required	Projected Impact to Future Operating Budgets
\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	N/A

Comprehensive Plan Consistency Review:

Comp Plan Goals/Objectives:

Consistent: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Summary Statement:

The Assembly previously requested that the administration bring a Resolution supporting House Bill 201 which aligns the residency requirement for hunting, trapping and sport fishing licenses with those of permanent fund dividend eligibility.

From the House Bill sectional analysis and the sponsor's statement: The existing definition of residency for the purpose of obtaining a hunting, trapping or sportfishing license is broad and difficult to enforce. HB 201 does not prohibit out-of-state hunters or fishermen from coming to Alaska to participate in the state's well-managed hunts and fisheries. Under this legislation, visitors will still be able to obtain non-resident permits without additional restrictions. In addition, the important guided hunting and fishing industries will not be impacted by this bill. HB 201 ensures that those who qualify for a resident hunting, trapping, or sportfishing license are in fact year-round residents of Alaska who deserve the privileges of increased bag limits and reduced license costs.

Referral:

Referred to:

Referral Date:

Recommendation:

Meeting Date:

Assembly Action:

Meeting Date(s): 02/13/24

Public Hearing Date(s):

Postponed to Date:

**A Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly Supporting the
Passage of House Bill 201: An Act Changing the Residency
Requirements for Hunting, Trapping and Sport Fishing Privileges.**

WHEREAS, Alaska residents rely on the resources of the State consistent with the Constitutional promise that “fish, wildlife, and waters are reserved to the people for common use”; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the Haines Borough rely heavily on the fish, wildlife and the waters of the area for subsistence, personal and commercial uses; and

WHEREAS, the existing definition of residency for the purpose of obtaining a hunting, trapping or sport fishing license is broad and difficult to enforce due to the low threshold for residency; and

WHEREAS, Alaskans who invest in their communities by maintaining residency most of the year should reap the benefit of access to fish and game resources; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 201 aligns the residency requirements for fishing, hunting and trapping with the permanent fund dividend eligibility requirements and will help protect the opportunities for harvest for residents, while still allowing access for those who cannot or do not meet the residency requirements,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HAINES BOROUGH ASSEMBLY supports the passage of House Bill 201 by the Alaska State Legislature.

Adopted by a duly-constituted quorum of the Haines Borough Assembly on this 13th day of February, 2024.

Thomas C. Morphet, Mayor

Attest:

Alekka Fullerton, MMC, Borough Clerk

From: [Kurt Whitehead](#)
To: [Dg_clerk](#)
Subject: HB 201 Update
Date: Thursday, February 1, 2024 8:15:23 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Haines Borough. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Subject: HB 201 Update

Dear HB 201 stakeholders,

Thank you very much for following [HB 201](#), [RESIDENCY REQ: HUNTING, TRAPPING, FISHING](#) as it moves through the legislative process. As many of you know we had two hearings on HB 201 last week in the House Resources Committee and I write with an update. During these hearings committee members had an opportunity to learn more about the bill, ask questions and hear from Alaskans about the problem we are trying to fix with this bill. It is typical for a committee to have an introductory hearing followed by a hearing for public testimony before they take any action on the bill.

On [Wednesday, January 24, 2026 the House Resources Committee had its first hearing on HB 201](#). I introduced the bill, Fish and Game Commissioner Vincent-Lang and Department of Public Safety Major Frenzel both did an excellent job answering questions and we had some great invited testimony from Alaskans who have been impacted by individuals taking advantage of the current residency requirements loophole. Committee members asked some really good questions and I think we were able to alleviate many of their concerns. However, a couple of members still seemed to be worried that changing the

definition of residency requirements would prevent some individuals, who currently qualify for a resident license, from continuing to get a resident license because they work or vacation out of state for more than six months a year.

The [House Resources Committee heard HB 201 again on Friday, January 26, 2024](#). This time the committee took public testimony on the bill. The testimony from around the state was almost entirely in support of the bill and testifiers made some great points. Thank you to those of you who called in and/or submitted letters of support! Personal testimony is often the most effective way to convince legislators to change a law.

Following the public testimony on Friday, the committee set the bill aside. Now it is up to the chair of the committee, Representative McKay, to decide when to schedule the bill again. The next hearing would typically be for the purpose of allowing committee members an opportunity to amend the bill. The amendment process is usually followed by the committee voting on whether or not they want to move the bill from the committee. At this time there has not been an amendment deadline set by the committee.

After the bill moves out of the House Resources Committee the bill will need to go through the same process in the House Judiciary Committee before it is scheduled for a House Floor vote. After it passes the House, the bill goes through the committee and floor process in the Senate before the Governor has an opportunity sign (or veto) the bill.

We are fortunate to get a hearing so early in session and that Senator Bjorkman has introduced the same bill (SB 171) in the Senate. While HB 201 works its way through the process in the House, Senator Bjorkman's bill can advance in the Senate and the two bills can meet up. This can significantly speed up

the legislative process.

Next, I will be meeting individually with members of the House Resources Committee to see if they have any outstanding questions or concerns about the bill and to see if there is support to move the bill from the committee. Alaskans who have not already submitted testimony can support the bill by writing [the chair and members of the House Resources Committee](#). We have an amazing amount of support for this bill from Southeast Alaska and especially Prince of Wales Island and we need to continue to build support across the state. If you live outside Southeast Alaska or have a friend outside Southeast Alaska who supports this bill, please contact your legislators and write to the committee members or encourage your friends to contact their legislators and write to the committee. I will continue to keep you updated and let you know if the Senate bill is scheduled for a hearing or if HB 201 moves from the Resources.

Thank you to all of you for your letters of support, thoughtful testimony and great questions and comments on this piece of legislation. There were a number of stories published last week on the bill including [a piece on Alaska Public Media's Alaska News Nightly on Friday, January 26, 2026](#) and articles in the [Anchorage Daily News](#) and [Ketchikan Daily News](#).

Sincerely,

Rebecca

Representative Rebecca Himschoot
Alaska House of Representatives
House District 2
907-465-3732



[Sign up for my newsletter - Southeast](#)