

BILL MAY RESTRICT GUIDES

Senate Floor Action is Expected Soon

JUNEAU — Legislation to restrict hunting guides to one guiding district per calendar year, is expected to come to the floor of the Senate this week, after passage with reservations by the Senate Resources Committee.

The measure introduced last year by State Senator Willie Hensley, D-Kotzebue and co-sponsored by Senators George Hohman, D-Bethel and John Sackett, R-Galena is aimed mainly at concern for the game itself, said Hensley Tuesday. Under the present situation, depending on the game and season, guides from throughout the state may converge in large numbers on a single area, making it difficult on the available game, Hensley said.

The Kotzebue Democrat said at some point the state may have to consider limiting guides in certain areas to certain numbers so that the guides themselves would have a stake in the continuation of the species.

The measure, Senate Bill 129, would appear to also benefit guides who now work in limited areas, because it would limit competition from other guides who now take client hunters throughout the state.

As observed by Commissioner James W. Brooks, of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the bill would, in effect, "restrict guides to operating in but one guiding district each calendar

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year, except that it provides that a registered guide may take parties for photography purposes in districts other than the one for which they are certified. The bill also provides the mechanism for the original choice of districts after the act takes effect, and for certification of other districts in subsequent years," Brooks said.