

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH REPORT

MARCH 16, 2009



REPORT NUMBER 09.184

HISTORY OF THE ALASKA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

PREPARED FOR SENATOR BETTYE DAVIS

BY HEATHER PARKER, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

You asked about the history and current status of the Alaska Human Relations Commission. Briefly, the Alaska Human Relations Commission was established in 1993 but was not funded. Although it remains in statute, the commission has not been operational since at least 1996.

The Alaska Human Relations Commission was codified at AS § 44.19 by Governor Walter Hickel by Executive Order (E.O.) No. 84, which combined the duties and functions of two former commissions—the Alaska Women's Commission and the Alaska Commission on Children and Youth.¹ The purpose of the commission is to coordinate programs related to the welfare of children, youth, women, and families (E.O. 84 § 1 [1993]).²

The commission aims to improve the status of women in the state by conducting research, by serving as a referral service for information and education on existing resources for women, and by making and implementing recommendations on the opportunities, needs, problems, and contributions of women in the state (AS § 44.19.608). The commission is required to develop a comprehensive statewide plan that identifies the needs of children and youth, and to make recommendations to enhance their quality of life (AS § 44.19.610), as well as produce an annual

¹ In 1978, the Alaska Women's Commission, originally named the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women, was established (ch 120 SLA 1978). In 1983, the commission was reaffirmed, renewed with a sunset date of June 30, 1988, and renamed the Alaska Women's Commission by the legislature (ch 52 SLA 1983). In 1988, prior to the sunset date, Governor Cowper, by Administrative Order No. 110, created an Interim Women's Commission to serve for the time between the sunset date of the Women's Commission and the approval of continued funding by the legislature. In 1989, the legislature renewed the Women's Commission, effective July 1 of that year (ch 15 SLA 1989).

A Children's Commission was introduced via SB 505 (1987) and HB 501 (1988) but was not initially approved by the legislature. Governor Cowper created an Interim Commission on Children and Youth on June 11, 1987, with a sunset date of May 10, 1988, by Administrative Order No. 97. The commission was renewed on April 20, 1988, with a sunset date of July 15, 1989, by Administrative Order No. 108. Another group with a similar function, the Governor's Task Force on Youth, was established on July 15, 1989, with a sunset date of June 30, 1990, by Administrative Order No. 144, to take over certain tasks after the sunset date of the Interim Commission. In 1990, the Commission on Children and Youth was ultimately established by the legislature (ch 16 SLA 1990).

² The Alaska Human Relations Commission is outlined in AS § 44.19.600 through AS § 44.19.619 and explicitly mentioned in AS § 39.05.100(e) and AS § 47.18.010(a). We include these statutes as well as Executive Order No. 84 (1993) as Attachment A.

report on the status of women and children in Alaska, the commission's proceedings during the previous year, and its recommendations and proposals for change (AS § 44.19.616). The commission is to be composed of two executive-branch members and seven public members appointed by the governor—at least one of whom manages a household that includes the person's spouse and at least one child and who is not otherwise employed. At least one other of the public members must be under the age of twenty-one (AS § 44.19.600).

Based on our examination of state directories, *Anchorage Daily News* articles, and a membership roster of the commission dated December 1993, it appears that the commission was operational in 1993. Records provided by Dan Saddler, deputy director, Alaska Boards and Commissions, indicate that the commission was listed as inactive in March 1996 due to lack of funds, though one member of the commission, Robert Head, is listed in the 1993 through 1998 state directories as the chair of the commission.³

It appears that the commission was never funded. According to the budget books published annually by the Legislative Finance Division for fiscal year (FY) 1990 through FY 1998, it appears that money was allocated to the Alaska Human Relations Commission in FY 1994 through money transferred from the budgets of the Alaska Women's Commission and the Alaska Commission on Children and Youth in the governor's budget but was deleted from the enacted budget. The Alaska Human Relations Commission was not listed in the budget books thereafter.⁴

We hope you find this information to be useful. Please let us know if you have questions or need additional information.

³ Mr. Saddler can be reached at (907) 269-7450. We include the membership roster from the Alaska Human Relations Commission, dated December 23, 1993, as Attachment B.

⁴ We examined the budget books for FY 1990 through 1998 for the Office of the Governor/Alaska State Legislature/Alaska Court System. Funds transferred from the Alaska Women's Commission and the Alaska Commission on Children and Youth to the Alaska Human Relations Commission are mentioned on pages 2a, 4a, and 6a of the FY 1994 Office of the Governor budget book.

Celeste Hodge

From: Coleen Chartier
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 2:24 PM
To: 'Celeste_Hodge@legis.state.ak.us'
Subject: Requested information
Attachments: aanreport1992.pdf; CSHB Ch 120.pdf

Celeste,

According to the legislation establishing the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women (ch 120 SLA 1978), the commission was given the authority to hire an executive director and other staff as needed. The legislation (copy attached) also lists the duties of the commission. The legislation became effective October 6, 1978 and the governor appointed ten commissioners later that month. From the information available to us today, we cannot determine exactly when an executive director was hired. However, the Commission was funded at \$157,900 for FY 1979, which indicates that enough funding was provided to hire staff. The Commission prepared several reports and held conferences in 1979, 1980 and 1981, which is more evidence the commission probably had staff from the beginning. Unfortunately, these documents are available only at the State Historical Library or the State Library, both of which are closed today.

We note that Katie Hurley was the executive director of the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women in at least 1980 and 1981, and would most likely know when the first executive director and other staff were hired.

The Women's Commission continued to have staff until at least 1992, when the budget for the commission was cut to \$29,400 (FY93 authorized funding). According to the Women's Commission's 1992 Annual Report, the only staff person listed is a volunteer (see attached 1992 Report).

According to Legislative Research Report, 09.184, "History of the Human Relations Commission," funds allocated to the Women's and Children's Commissions in the Governor's FY1994 budget were transferred to the Human Relations Commission. However, the funds were eventually deleted from the enacted budget. Thus, FY93 was the last year the Women's Commission received any funding.

I hope this is helpful. Susan.

Susan Haymes, Legislative Analyst
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Memorandum

TO: Senator Bettye Davis
FROM: Susan Haymes, Legislative Analyst
DATE: March 18, 2011
RE: Past Members of the Alaska Women's Commission
LRS Report 11.233

Katie Riley
SKH

You asked for a list of past members of the Alaska Women's Commission.

Members of the Alaska Women's Commission, 1986-1992

Name	Term	Community
Lynn Aleshire	1992	Anchorage
Nancy Ayagarak	1991-1992	Bethel
Elizabeth Barry	1990	Anchorage
Pauline Beltz-Hooten	1986	
Michelle Brown	1989	Anchorage
Loretta Bullard	1987-1990	Nome
Karen Byron	1991-1992	Wasilla
Kris Chatfield	1986-1987	Anchorage
Florence Esmailka	1989-1990	Ruby
Linda Freed (Chair)	1987-1990	Kodiak
Meg Gaydosik	1990	Fairbanks
✓ Joy Green-Armstrong	1986-1990	Anchorage ✓
Kathleen Harrington	1990	Anchorage
Merritt Helfferich	1988	Fairbanks
Marcia Johnson	1986-1987	Sitka
Elizabeth Kennedy	1986	
Pat Kennedy	1987-1988	Anchorage
Karen McGahan	1991-1992	Kenai
Rebecca Napoleon	1988-1990	Hooper Bay
Mary Pete	1986-1987	Bethel
Virginia Phillips	1991-1992	Sitka
→ Betty Ramage	1986-1988	Anchorage
Wendy Redman	1986-1989	Fairbanks
Paula Ziegler Sampson (Chair)	1986-1989	Juneau
Lucile Santos	1990	Juneau
Lary Schafer	1989-1990	Huslia
Susan Smalley	1987-1989	Kenai
Robin States	1992	Fairbanks
Carol Sturgulewski	1991	Unalaska
Barbara Tyndall (Chair)	1991-1992	Fairbanks

Source: Alaska Women's Commission Annual Reports, 1986-1992.

We hope this is helpful. If you have questions or need additional information, please let us know.



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Memorandum

TO: Senator Bettye Davis
FROM: Susan Warner, Legislative Analyst
DATE: April 7, 2011
RE: States with Commissions on Women and Women's Organizations in Alaska
LRS Report 11.253

You asked how many states have a women's commission. Also you asked for names and contact information for organizations in Alaska that aid in the health and welfare of women.

We found 33 jurisdictions, including the District of Columbia, that have state-level women's commissions or councils. All appear to be active; however, the commission in New Hampshire is scheduled to sunset in June 2011. We provide a listing of these organizations in Attachment A.

The Alaska Women's Network lists over 20 organizations in Alaska that focus on the health and welfare of women.¹ Additionally, we identified 17 safe shelters for women around the state. We include, as Attachment B, the names of Alaska women's organizations, along with their missions and contact information. Included in Attachment C is a list of Alaska centers that provide safe harbors for women who face domestic violence and sexual abuse.

We hope this is helpful. If you have questions or need additional information, please let us know.

¹ The Alaska Women's Network is a volunteer, web-based organization designed to connect organizations working on women's issues in Alaska. More information can be found at www.alaskawomensnetwork.org/.

Code of Ala. § 41-9-410

MICHIE'S ALABAMA CODE ANNOTATED
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*** Current through the end of the 2010 Regular and First Special Sessions ***
*** (Acts 2010, No. 10-787) ***

TITLE 41 State Government
CHAPTER 9 Boards and Commissions
Article 14 Women's Commission

Go to the Alabama Code Archive Directory

Code of Ala. § 41-9-410 (2011)

§ 41-9-410. Generally.

There is hereby created and established a continuing **Women's Commission**, hereinafter referred to as the commission, which shall be composed of three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, two members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tern of the Senate and 10 members appointed by the Governor. Of those members appointed by the Governor, one member shall be appointed from each congressional district as the same are established on September 20, 1971, and two members shall be appointed from the state-at-large. At least seven of the members appointed by the Governor shall be women. The five members representing the Legislature shall be appointed for terms of two years, and their successors shall be appointed for terms of two years. Of those members appointed by the Governor, five members shall be appointed for terms of five years, and five members shall be appointed for terms of three years, and the successors to such 10 appointees shall serve for terms of five years.

Members shall be selected on the basis of their interests and knowledge in, and their ability to make contributions to, the solutions of problems related to the status of **women**.

The commission shall report to the Governor and the Legislature.

Vacancies on the commission shall be filled by appointment in the same manner provided for the appointment of the initial members. Any appointment to replace a member whose position becomes vacant prior to the expiration of the term shall be filled only for the

remainder of the term.

Members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services, except that they may be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incident to their duties as members of the commission, in accordance with state law.

HISTORY: Acts 2010, No. 10-509, § 1, April 21, 2010.

Cal Gov Code § 8241

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*** THIS SECTION IS CURRENT THROUGH THE 2011 SUPPLEMENT ***
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SPECIAL NOTICE: CHAPTERS ENACTED BETWEEN OCTOBER 20, 2009, AND
NOVEMBER 2, 2010, ARE SUBJECT TO REPEAL BY PROPOSITION 22.

GOVERNMENT CODE
Title 2. Government of the State of California
Division 1. General
Chapter 3.1. Commission on the Status of Women

GO TO CALIFORNIA CODES ARCHIVE DIRECTORY

Cal Gov Code § 8241 (2010)

§ 8241. Members; Appointment; Term of office

There is in the state government the Commission on the Status of **Women**. The **commission** shall consist of 17 members: three Members of the Senate and one public member appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, three Members of the Assembly and one public member appointed by the Speaker, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Chief of the Division of Industrial Welfare in the Department of Industrial Relations, and seven public members appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Senate. The Members of the Legislature shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing powers.

Public member appointees of the Speaker and the Senate Committee on Rules, and appointees of the Governor shall serve four-year terms. All persons appointed pursuant to Section 2 of Chapter 1378 of the Statutes of 1965, as amended by Chapter 382 of the Statutes of 1973, shall continue in office until the expiration of their term and the appointment of their successors. The appointing powers may reappoint a member whose term has expired, and shall immediately fill any vacancy for the unexpired portion of the term in which it occurs.

All appointees shall hold office until the appointment of their successors.

✚ History:

Added Stats 1977 ch 579 § 65 as Gov C § 8221. Amended and renumbered by Stats 1979 ch 373 § 125.

O.C.G.A. § 50-12-80

OFFICIAL CODE OF GEORGIA ANNOTATED
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*** Current Through the 2010 Regular Session ***
*** Annotations Current Through October 29, 2010 ***

TITLE 50. STATE GOVERNMENT
CHAPTER 12. COMMISSIONS AND OTHER AGENCIES
ARTICLE 5. GEORGIA COMMISSION ON WOMEN

Go to the Georgia Code Archive Directory

O.C.G.A. § 50-12-80 (2011)

§ 50-12-80. Creation of commission; appointments to and vacancies in membership;
staggered terms

(a) There is created the Georgia **Commission on Women**. The **commission** shall be composed of 15 members to be appointed as follows:

(1) Five members shall be appointed by the Governor;

(2) Five members shall be appointed by the President of the Senate; and

(3) Five members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(b) The members of the commission shall be women and men of recognized ability and achievement. All vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term by the original appointing official. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c) of this Code section, members shall serve for terms of four years and shall be eligible for successive appointments by an appointing official. Any member with four consecutive unexcused absences from regular monthly meetings may be removed from the commission by the appointing official. Each person appointed to the commission shall be a full-time resident of Georgia. Any member who ceases to be a full-time resident of this state during the term of his or her membership shall be removed from the commission and such vacancy shall be filled by the Governor.

(c) To effect staggered terms of office for members of the commission and effective with members appointed for terms beginning in 2000, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each appoint: two members for two-year terms of office; two members for three-year terms of office; and one member for a one-year term of office. Thereafter, all members shall be appointed to serve four-year terms of office.

HISTORY: Code 1981, § 50-12-80, enacted by Ga. L. 1992, p. 820, § 1; Ga. L. 2000, p. 1219, §§ 1, 2.

Title Note

Chapter Note

Article Note

Idaho Code § 67-6001

IDAHO CODE STATUTES ANNOTATED
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*** Statutes current through the 2010 Regular Session ***

GENERAL LAWS
TITLE 67. STATE GOVERNMENT AND STATE AFFAIRS
CHAPTER 60. IDAHO WOMEN'S COMMISSION

[Go to the Idaho Code Archive Directory](#)

Idaho Code § 67-6001 (2011)

§ 67-6001. Establishment and purpose of the commission

There is hereby established in the office of the governor the Idaho **women's commission**. The purposes of the commission shall be: (1) to encourage and stimulate women to increase their participation in and contributions, whether paid or unpaid, to the social, political and economic progress of the local communities, the state and the nation, acting independently or in cooperation with similar commissions and committees established by the president of the United States and the governors of other states; and (2) to engage in activities that encourage and stimulate the development of strong families.

HISTORY: 1970, ch. 69, § 1, p. 165; am. 1974, ch. 22, § 48, p. 592; am. 1997, ch. 79, § 1, p. 163.

MCLS § 10.71

MICHIGAN COMPILED LAWS SERVICE
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CHAPTER 10 GOVERNOR
MICHIGAN WOMEN'S COMMISSION

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MCLS § 10.71 (2011)

MCL § 10.71

§ 10.71. Michigan women's commission; establishment, ex-officio membership; unit in executive office of the governor.

Sec. 1. The Michigan **women's commission** is established and consists of 15 members broadly representative of all fields of interest to women. The heads of the following departments or their representatives are ex officio members of the commission: civil service, education, labor and social services. The commission is an independent unit in the executive office of the governor, except for budgeting, procurement and related management functions.

HISTORY: Act 1, 1968, p 7; eff November 15, 1968.

Pub Acts 1968, No. 1, § 1, eff November 15, 1968.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
RESEARCH AGENCY

Pouch Y, State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-3991

February 22, 1985

MEMORANDUM

TO:

ATTN:

FROM: Heidi Borson Paine ^{HP}
Legislative Analyst

RE: Background Information on the Alaska Women's Commission
Research Request 85-168

Your staff requested the following information on the Alaska Women's Commission (AWC): 1) a brief history of the commission; 2) names of all previous commissioners; 3) commission office locations; 4) programs administered by the commission; 5) annual budget and staffing levels since origin; 6) information on any legislation initiated by the commission; and 7) a list of legislation currently supported by the commission.

History of the Alaska Women's Commission

In 1977, the Alaska Legislature passed a bill, sponsored by Representative Lisa Rudd, directing the Human Rights Commission to produce a report entitled A Preliminary Study: The Status of Women in Alaska. The study identified several problem areas concerning women in Alaska. In response to one of the study's recommendations, Representative Rudd introduced legislation creating the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women. The legislature passed the bill in 1978 (AS 44.19.165 - .175).

Alaska Statute 44.19 defined the purposes of the commission as: "...to implement the recommendations contained in the preliminary study on the status of women in Alaska which was mandated by the Ninth Legislature, Second Session, under Chapter 99 SLA 1976, and improve the status of women in Alaska by conducting further research and by making and implementing additional recommendations on the opportunities, needs, problems, and contributions of women in Alaska including, but not limited to 1) education, 2) homemaking, 3) civil and legal rights, and 4) labor and employment." (See Attachment A for a collection of the recommendations and conclusions presented in the study on the status of women.)

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Under AS 44.19.165, the termination date of the commission was June 30, 1983. However, a bill signed into law on July 11, 1983 extended the life of the commission, subject to the four-year sunset provision for commissions in AS 44.66.010. Senators Vic Fischer, Arliss Sturgulewski, and Pat Rodey sponsored the legislation. The bill also changed the commission's name to the Alaska Women's Commission and directed the commission to encourage the development of regional and municipal women's councils or commissions. The termination date of the current commission is June 30, 1987.

Other Background Information

The Women's Commission is composed of ten commissioners, nine public members and an ex officio member who represents the Attorney General's Office. All commissioners are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the governor. Alaska Statute 44.19.167 directs the governor to take into account geographical, minority and low-income representation when appointing commission members. Commission members serve on a voluntary basis, but are entitled to per diem and reimbursement for travel expenses. Commissioners serve five-year terms which are staggered to facilitate smoother transitions from one commission to the next.

The full commission meets quarterly. An executive committee which is made up of the Chair, Vice-Chair and a member-at-large often meets between quarterly meetings. In addition, the other four standing committees (Policy and Procedure, Program, Personnel, and Legislative) also meet a minimum of once per quarter. Other ad hoc committees which are established to perform specific tasks, such as the Native Women's Task Force and the Statewide Women's Conference Committee, meet when necessary. Current members of the Alaska Women's Commission are: Betty Ramage (Chair), Kris Chatfield (Vice-Chair), Pat Berkley, Charlotte Brower, Marcia Johnson, Suzanne Lombardi, Agnes Nichols, Grace Smith, and Wendy Redman. Pat Kennedy is the ex officio member from the Attorney General's Office. (See Attachment B for lists of all previous commissioners and their locations.)

The Alaska Women's Commission operates one office statewide, which is located in Anchorage. However, as indicated earlier, commission members are located in different areas of the state and represent the commission in those locations. For example, two members of the commission are currently located in Juneau and represent the commission here.

Programs Administered by AWC

In meeting its statutory directive to improve the legal, economic, social and political status of women in Alaska, the Women's Commission

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employs a variety of mediums, including research, publication, advocacy, conferences, information and referral services and public education.

Research. The commission undertakes several major research projects each year. In FY 83, the commission conducted research on the economic status of Alaska Native women. The research resulted in a report and in recommendations for increasing the hiring and training of Native women by the State of Alaska. In FY 84, the commission completed a research project documenting the changing role of women in Alaska and comparing Alaska women with their counterparts around the United States. The research findings were published in Alaska Women: A Databook. Currently, the commission is conducting a comprehensive review of the Alaska Statutes for sex discrimination. Recommendations and statutory changes will be presented to the governor by May 1985.

Publications. The Women's Commission also publishes and distributes numerous publications each year. In 1983, for example, the commission published Profiles in Change: Names, Notes, and Quotes for Alaskan Women, a book containing profiles of 60 Alaska women who have contributed to the state's development. Five thousand copies of the book were distributed in 1984. The commission also published a handbook entitled Women's Legal Rights in Alaska and a directory of statewide women's organizations in 1984. In addition, AWC publishes fact sheets and brochures on issues of concern to women, as well as newsletters on a regular basis. The attached Annual Report 1984 includes a list of published materials currently available from the commission. I have also attached copies of Alaska Women: A Databook and Women's Legal Rights in Alaska.

Information and Referral. The Women's Commission also serves as a clearinghouse for information on services, programs, legislation and issues which relate to women's concerns. In 1984, the commission responded to 1,296 calls and walk-ins requesting information or referrals. The commissioners and staff members also give public addresses and take part in media interviews to provide information to the public about women's issues.

Conferences. Each year, the commission also sponsors numerous conferences aimed at reducing stereotypes, increasing sensitivity to women's concerns, supporting the efforts of other organizations, and educating the public about issues of importance to women. The commission is sponsoring a statewide forum called At the Edge of Opportunity: A Statewide Conference on Women, the Economy and Public Policy. The three-day conference will include national and local speakers and 20 workshops. Next year, AWC plans to institute a traveling workshop series for rural Alaska on opportunities for leadership.

Local Councils. One of the commission's current goals is to meet its legislative directive to develop local women's councils around Alaska.

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One of the main purposes of the local councils is to ensure that local needs and priorities are addressed at the state level. To date, the commission has helped develop two local councils: the Anchorage Women's Commission and Sitka Women's Council. The commission is currently working to establish a local council in Juneau and plans to initiate one other local council by the end of 1985. Local councils are established by municipal ordinance and receive most of their funding from the municipal government. The Alaska Women's Commission provides the local council with technical assistance and copies of its research materials and publications.

The commission also actively promotes Women's History Month and sponsors numerous activities and events around Alaska in recognition of women who have made social, political and economic contributions. The commission's legislative advocacy activities are described in the following section.

Legislation

You asked if the commission had ever initiated any legislation. For the first time since 1979, when the commission helped initiate displaced homemaker legislation, the commission actively initiated legislation this session. Based on AWC research which indicated the need for pension reform within the public employees retirement systems, the commission drafted a pension reform act based on recent changes to the national Employee Income Security Act (ERISA). In August 1984, Congress amended ERISA to improve pension equity for women in the private sector.

Alaska Women's Commission's legislation would give public employees the same privileges ERISA affords private sector employees. The proposed legislation, which would affect the public employees' and teachers' retirement systems (PERS and TRS) and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, would require change in three areas. First, the bill would require the consent of an employee's spouse before the employee could waive joint and survivor benefits, revoke the designation of the spouse as the employee's beneficiary, or obtain a contribution refund if the employee has a vested interest in benefits. Second, retirement benefits would be considered assignable in divorce property settlements. Finally, the bill would allow retirement benefits to accrue during paternity leave for up to nine weeks. To receive the credited service, the employee would have to pay the full actuarial cost of providing benefits for the service claimed. The third component of the bill was recently placed in a separate bill. The commission submitted the bills to the governor, who is expected to introduce the legislation within the next week.

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According to Kathy Marshall, Executive Director of the Alaska Women's Commission, most of AWC's advocacy efforts focus on supporting legislation introduced by others. The commission's Legislative Committee analyzes legislation, develops positions and makes recommendations to legislators and other policy makers. Members of the commission also testify at public hearings and educate individuals about the issues.

At the end of FY 84, the commission sponsored a teleconference with twelve statewide women's organizations to identify legislation priorities for the 1985 session. From that meeting, the commission developed a platform of issues and bills it supports. However, Kathy Marshall points out that the platform continually grows as new bills are introduced. The Alaska Women's Commission currently supports the following bills:

House Bill 87 "An Act extending the termination date of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; and providing for an effective date", sponsored by the Rules Committee at the request of the Governor.

House Bill 92 "An Act relating to child and spousal support; and providing for an effective date", sponsored by the Rules Committee at the request of the Governor.

Senate Bill 92 "An Act relating to benefits under the supplemental benefits system; and providing for an effective date", sponsored by the Rules Committee at the request of the Governor.

Senate Bill 165 "An Act relating to child care centers in state buildings and providing for an effective date", sponsored by Senators Bettye Fahrenkamp, Arliss Sturgulewski, Vic Fischer, Pat Rodey and Jay Kerttula.

The commission also supports two budget items. First, AWC supports its own budget request for an additional \$30,000 for FY 86. The commission's budget has not increased during the past three years. If approved, AWC plans to use \$25,000 of the additional funds to conduct a review of all State government administrative regulations for discrimination against women. The remaining \$5,000 would be used to help establish local women's councils around the state (as the 1983 legislation directed) by providing travel assistance for statewide planning meetings and resource materials. The commission also supports an increase in the Department of Community and Regional Affairs' budget for increased funding for day care programs. The commission is also considering HB 147 "An Act creating a division of equal employment opportunity in the Department of Administration" sponsored by the Rules Committee at the Governor's request, but has not yet decided to support the bill. In addition, AWC supports the concept of a marital rape law.

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Budget and Staffing Levels Since Origin

The staffing level of the Alaska Women's Commission has remained fairly constant during the past five years. During FY 79 and FY 80, AWC had three staff members: an Executive Director, Research Analyst II (range 16) and a Secretary. In FY 81, a Public Information Officer (range 17) position was added. Since then, the staffing level has remained at four positions. However, in FY 84, the research analyst position was reclassified to a Staff Assistant (range 18) to reflect the person's increased duties and responsibilities. Current staff members are: Kathy Marshall (Executive Director), Christine Callahan (Staff Assistant), Barbara Baker (Research Analyst/Public Information Officer) and Laurie Anderson (Secretary).

Since its inception, the commission's budget has increased from \$157,900 to \$326,700. However, the budget has not increased in the past three years. According to Chris Callahan, AWC Staff Assistant, the commission's budget breakdown reflects the fact that commission members set policy while staff members (shown in the budget under personal services) are responsible for planning and implementing all programs and research conducted by AWC. The attached table provides a categorical breakdown of the commission's total yearly budgets from 1979 (the first year the commission received an appropriation) to the current fiscal year (see Attachment C).

* * * *

I hope this memorandum adequately addresses your questions. Please contact me if you need any additional information.

HBP

Attachments

Attachment C
ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION
BUDGET SUMMARY FY 79 - FY 85

	<u>FY 85</u>	<u>FY 84</u>	<u>FY 83</u>	<u>FY 82</u>	<u>FY 81</u>	<u>FY 80</u>	<u>FY 79</u>
Personal Services	\$192,900 59%	\$184,000 56%	\$173,800 50%	\$160,700 56%	\$123,720 58%	\$97,211 59%	\$80,300 51%
Travel	34,800 11%	37,800 12%	47,000 13%	15,500 5%	22,800 11%	12,800 8%	17,100 11%
Contractual	97,000 30%	101,900 31%	125,300 36%	50,700 17%	65,600 31%	53,400 32%	58,600 37%
Supplies	2,000 1%	3,000 1%	2,000 1%	1,800 1%	1,800 1%	1,600 1%	1,900 1%
Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statewide Conference Travel	0	0	0	20,000 7%	0	0	0
Contractual	0	0	0	40,000 14%	0	0	0
TOTAL	\$326,700	\$326,700	\$348,100	\$288,700	\$213,920	\$165,011	\$157,900
Positions	4	4	4	4	4	3	3

Source: Office of the Governor, Division of Administrative Services.

Prepared by the House Research Agency, February 1985.

(3) assure continued provision of data and information to coastal resource districts to carry out their planning and management functions under the program;

(4) submit annually to the legislature, no later than the 10th day of each regular session, the portion of the coastal management program approved or amended by the council during the preceding year. (§ 3 ch 84 SLA 1977)

Revisor's notes. — Formerly AS 44.19.893. Renumbered in 1980.

Sec. 44.19.162. Council staff. The council shall use the staff of the office of coastal management within the office of management and budget in discharging its powers and duties. The coordinator of the office of coastal management, under the direction of the council co-chair who is selected from among the members designated in AS 44.19.155(a)(2), may contract with or employ personnel or consultants the coordinator considers necessary to carry out the powers and duties of the council. (§ 3 ch 84 SLA 1977; am § 24 ch 63 SLA 1983)

Revisor's notes. — Formerly AS 44.19.894. Renumbered in 1980.

Effect of amendments. — The 1983 amendment in the first sentence substituted "use" for "utilize" and substituted "office of management and budget" for

"division of policy development and planning," and in the second sentence substituted "of coastal management ... in AS 44.19.155(a)(2)" for "with the concurrence of the council" and substituted "the coordinator" for "he."

Article 12. Alaska Women's Commission.

Section

165. Creation of commission
166. Composition
167. Appointment
168. Meetings
169. Terms of office

Section

170. Compensation
171. Purpose
175. Powers and duties
180. Annual report

Revisor's notes. — In 1980, the sections of this chapter were extensively renumbered. For derivations of current sections and current disposition of former sections consult the parallel reference table at the beginning of this title and the Table of Sections Amended, Etc. in binder no. 8.

Editor's notes. — Section 4, ch. 52, SLA 1983, provides: "The Alaska Women's Commission established in sec. 1 of this Act succeeds to all the powers, duties, and facilities of the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women."

Sec. 44.19.165. Creation of commission. There is created in the Office of the Governor the Alaska Women's Commission. (§ 1 ch 120 SLA 1978; am § 1 ch 52 SLA 1983)

Revisor's notes. — Formerly AS 44.19.956. Renumbered in 1980.

Effect of amendments. — The 1983 amendment changed the name of the com-

mission from the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women to the Alaska Women's Commission.

Sec. 44.19.166. Composition. The commission consists of nine members and an ex officio member representing the office of the attorney general who shall serve at the pleasure of the governor. (§ 1 ch 120 SLA 1978)

Revisor's notes. — Formerly AS 44.19.957. Renumbered in 1980.

Sec. 44.19.167. Appointment. (a) The members shall be appointed on a nonpartisan and nondiscriminatory basis by the governor within 60 days of October 6, 1978. The members shall be residents of the state. At least one member shall be a homemaker who is not otherwise employed. In making the appointments, due consideration shall be given to

(1) the recommendations made by civic organizations, women's organizations, educational and vocational groups, employer groups, labor unions, church groups, homemakers' clubs and organizations, and other groups having an interest in the status of women;

(2) statewide geographical representation of the commission; and

(3) minority and low-income representation.

(b) The commission shall elect one of its members as chairperson and may select other commission officers as it considers necessary. (§ 1 ch 120 SLA 1978)

Revisor's notes. — Formerly AS 44.19.958. Renumbered in 1980.

Sec. 44.19.168. Meetings. Within 60 days after the appointment of all the members of the commission, the governor shall call the first meeting of the commission. A majority of the members constitutes a quorum for conducting business and exercising the powers of the commission. The commission shall meet at the call of the chairperson, at the request of a majority of the members, or at a regularly scheduled time as determined by a majority of the members. (§ 1 ch 120 SLA 1978)

Revisor's notes. — Formerly AS 44.19.959. Renumbered in 1980.

Sec. 44.19.169. Terms of office. The term of office of each member is five years. Terms shall be staggered. Initial terms shall be three members serving for one year, three members serving for three years, and three members serving for five years. A vacancy shall be filled for

the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as original appointments. (§ 1 ch 120 SLA 1978)

Revisor's notes. — Formerly AS
44.19.961. Renumbered in 1980.

Sec. 44.19.170. Compensation. Members of the commission receive no compensation for their services but are entitled to per diem and travel allowances authorized by law for other boards and commissions. (§ 1 ch 120 SLA 1978)

Revisor's notes. — Formerly AS
44.19.962. Renumbered in 1980.

Sec. 44.19.171. Purpose. The purpose of the commission is to implement the recommendations contained in the preliminary study on the status of women in Alaska which was mandated by the Ninth Legislature, Second Session, under ch. 99 SLA 1976, and improve the status of women in Alaska by conducting further research and by making and implementing additional recommendations on the opportunities, needs, problems, and contributions of women in Alaska including, but not limited to,

- (1) education,
- (2) homemaking,
- (3) civil and legal rights,
- (4) labor and employment. (§ 1 ch 120 SLA 1978)

Revisor's notes. — Formerly AS
44.19.963. Renumbered in 1980.

Sec. 44.19.173. [Repealed, § 1 ch 63 SLA 1975.]

Sec. 44.19.175. Powers and duties. To accomplish its purpose, the commission may

- (1) hire an executive director and additional administrative staff as may be necessary to the commission's function;
- (2) act as a clearinghouse and coordinating body for governmental and nongovernmental information relating to the status of women;
- (3) cooperate with public and private agencies in joint efforts to study and resolve problems relating to the status of women in Alaska;
- (4) accumulate and compile information concerning discrimination against women;
- (5) disseminate the results of research and compilation of data acquired under (4) of this section by publication and other methods such as public hearings, conferences, and seminars;
- (6) study and analyze all facts relating to Alaska laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to equal protection for women under the state constitution;

- (7) recommend legislative and administrative action on equal treatment and opportunities for women;
- (8) select and retain the services of consultants whose advice is considered necessary to assist the commission in obtaining information;
- (9) encourage women to utilize their capabilities and to assume leadership roles;
- (10) establish standing committees among the members to investigate and make recommendations on various areas of concern;
- (11) create task forces composed of commission members and other experts as needed;
- (12) accept monetary gifts or grants from the federal government or an agency of it, from any charitable foundation or professional association or from any other reputable sources for implementation of any program necessary or desirable for carrying out the general purposes of the commission;
- (13) encourage the development of regional and municipal women's councils or commissions. (§ 1 ch 120 SLA 1978; am § 2 ch 52 SLA 1983)

Revisor's notes. — Formerly AS 44.19.964. Renumbered in 1980.

Effect of amendments. — The 1983 amendment added paragraph (13).

Sec. 44.19.180. Annual report. Each year the commission shall file a report with the governor and the legislature of its proceedings for the previous calendar year and shall submit recommendations for legislative and administrative action. Reports and recommendations required under this section shall be prepared no later than the convening of the legislature. (§ 1 ch 120 SLA 1978)

Revisor's notes. — Formerly AS 44.19.966. Renumbered in 1980.

— 44.19.210 (Local Affairs Agency) was repealed by § 10, ch. 200, SLA 1972.

Editor's notes. — Former AS 44.19.180

Article 13. Yukon-Taiya Commission.

Section	Section
181. Yukon-Taiya Commission established	185. Administration
182. Duties of the commission	186. Acceptance of grants and other aid
183. Composition of commission	187. Expenditures
184. Term of membership	188. Reports

Revisor's notes. — In 1980, the sections of this chapter were extensively renumbered. For derivations of current sections and current disposition of former sections consult the parallel reference table at the beginning of this title and the Table of Sections Amended, Etc. in binder no. 8.

Editor's notes. — Former AS 44.19.181 — 44.19.189 (Alaska Council on Science and Technology) was repealed by E.O. No. 46 (1980). For current provisions, see AS 44.21.241 — 44.21.255.

A Preliminary Study:

**The Status of Women
in Alaska**



RECEIVED

FEB 19 1985

**Human Rights Commission
Juneau Office**

Compiled by the University of Alaska
Institute for Social and Economic
Research, and Joan Katz, for the Alaska
State Commission for Human Rights

January, 1977

RECOMMENDATIONS

Sex Bias in Curriculum Materials

From kindergarten through college, students are exposed to text books that reinforce the notion that men do the important work of the society and women do the less important work. If girls are to be adequately prepared for the reality that they will probably work for a large part of their lives, then eliminating curriculum materials which deny this reality is necessary. The State Legislature should appoint a commission to work with all school districts to eliminate sex biased curriculum materials and should provide additional funds to the Alaska Commission for Human Rights to implement Section 18.80.255 of the Human Rights law concerning discriminatory practices by the state or its political subdivisions.

Sex Inequality in Athletic Programs

Girls participate much less frequently than boys in high school athletic programs. The only athletic activities in which female participation rates are higher than male are traditionally feminine sports such as volleyball and swimming. A striking inequity exists in expenditures for girls' and boys' sports. Total expenditures for sports for Alaska male high school students is 283 times more than the total expenditure for sports for Alaska female high school students. And the average cost per male student is 73 percent higher than the average cost per female student. Furthermore, average salaries for coaches for male sports are considerably higher than for coaches of female sports. While girls may demand sports programs less frequently than boys, the relatively low funding for girls' athletic programs may itself act as a deterrent to participation. The State Legislature should direct the Alaska Department of Education to work with all school districts to insure equal athletic opportunities for boys and girls at the elementary and secondary levels.

Sex Bias in School and Employment Counseling

The evidence at hand suggests a strong sex bias in career counseling--at the high school and college levels as well as in vocational training programs. Since guidance counselors can critically influence students' occupational choices, it is important for them to be sensitive to and knowledgeable about the reality that most women work for a

large part of their lives, and that equal educational and occupational opportunities rest in part on overcoming past sex bias in education. The State Legislature should provide funds for a systematic study on sex bias in educational counseling as a basis for training programs and in-service training for all educational professionals who have advisory or counseling responsibilities in local educational agencies and in colleges or universities. The State Legislature should direct the Alaska Department of Education and Alaska Department of Labor to monitor and evaluate sex bias in vocational training programs for which they are responsible.

Sex Discrimination in Education Employment

Sex discrimination in education employment appears to be marked in Alaska. At the primary and secondary levels, while the majority of teachers are women, the overwhelming majority of principals and superintendents are men. When women do achieve high positions in education employment, they tend to earn less than men at the same rank. At the college level, inequality between the sexes appears in faculty rank. Female faculty members tend to remain at the same rank longer than male faculty members and thus are discriminated against in promotional opportunities.

In recognition of this and other types of education discrimination, the federal government has enacted legislation (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972) to develop affirmative action plans to overcome the discrimination. We propose that the Alaska Legislature enact a state Title IX law 1) to commit Alaska to the affirmative action goals the federal government has developed and 2) to enable the state to withhold state funds if non-compliance is found.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Labor Force Participation

In Alaska, as in the United States, women's rates of participation in the labor force are increasing. In fact, female rates of participation in the United States labor force are not expected to approach Alaskan women's 1970 rate of participation until 1990. Rates of increase in female labor force participation in Alaska and in the United States as a whole have been greatest for younger women, especially those under thirty-five, and for all married women, particularly married women with small children. Divorced women have maintained their high levels of labor force participation over the period, as have separated women.

While trends in labor force participation for women in the United States as a whole can be plotted over time with available data, a statewide analysis depends upon the Alaska Department of Labor's labor force statistics, which unfortunately are not tabulated by sex and minority status. Thus, the present study was limited by the Alaskan sex-specific data available for analysis. Our preliminary analysis used 1960 and 1970 Census data, a relatively small sample of all employers in Alaska who have one hundred or more employees and who report to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and sample surveys of Anchorage and Fairbanks, among other sources. These fragmentary data sources do not permit definitive answers to many of the major questions of occupational segregation and discrimination in employment against women which need to be answered here in Alaska.

We recommend that the State Legislature direct the Alaska Department of Labor to record and report all labor force, employment and unemployment statistics by sex and minority status. We also recommend that the legislature authorize and sufficiently fund a full economic analysis based on these sex-specific and minority-specific data of women's employment, unemployment and labor force participation.

Part-time Employment

Women are much more likely than men to be employed part time. This is particularly true for women in the child-bearing and child-rearing years. The number of part-time jobs in Alaska is insufficient to meet the demand expressed

by many women interviewed, including 75 percent of the housewives in our survey. We recommend that the state encourage job-sharing and other innovative efforts aimed at expanding the number and variety of part-time jobs in all levels of government.

Day Care

Day care is either too expensive or virtually unavailable for many working women or those who desire employment. In Anchorage alone, of the estimated 17,000 children 13 years of age or younger with working mothers, 20 percent (an estimated 11,000 children) are without day care. Over 30 percent of our sample of housewives said their children would need day care if they were to work. The present demonstrated demand for day care requires immediate action. We recommend that the State Legislature immediately consider significant increases in day care funding.

We also recommend that the State Legislature fund a study of the costs and benefits of increasing both part-time employment opportunities and day care to accommodate the demand of working women and women desiring employment.

Unemployment

While the number of women employed in Alaska has tripled between 1970 and 1975, according to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission data on Alaska's major employers, women's share of total employment and, in particular, their share of blue collar employment, appears to have declined recently. While female participation in blue collar employment was increasing, women's share of total blue collar employment, as measured by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission reported employment, dropped sharply in 1975. With the fragmentary data we have, we cannot establish whether the women who obtained jobs on the pipeline project simply relocated from blue collar work in other areas or whether they represent a significant increase in the total pool of female blue collar workers. Anchorage and Fairbanks survey data suggest no major shift of female workers into blue collar employment. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission sampling of major employers shows that male blue collar employment in 1975 doubled that of 1974, but that female blue collar employment only increased slightly. Therefore, the proportion of female workers declined to 1970 levels. Equal Employment Opportunity reports from state government show a slight absolute decline in female employment in state government.

Because women have experienced discrimination and lack of opportunity historically, and because the fragmentary data we have considered point to continued and perhaps heightened discrimination with Alaska's transition to a non-pipeline stimulated economy, we recommend that a state monitor be appointed to assure the equitable distribution of jobs to all eligible workers regardless of sex, race or other characteristics.

Occupation

Women in Alaska are concentrated in three occupational categories--the clerical, service and low-status professional groups. While more women have entered the labor force, most of the increase in female participation has been absorbed by these three occupational groups, continuing the high degree of segregation found in 1960 and 1970. More recent data from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and from the 1975 and 1976 community surveys conducted in Anchorage and Fairbanks indicate very little change in the respective over-all occupational distribution of women. While the female occupational structure on the pipeline project does appear to have shifted in 1976 with improved opportunities in blue collar occupations, this change is not substantiated in either the Equal Employment Opportunity reports nor in the recent Fairbanks and Anchorage surveys. A more detailed analysis of recent employment trends should be undertaken to encompass these conflicting findings.

The female share of managerial positions (5-6 percent) has not changed since 1960. But there are some indications that the type of management positions held by women in Alaska has changed. For example, in 1970 there were fewer women managers in government and more women managers of restaurants or other services. Women in Anchorage are less likely than men to hold managerial positions, while in Fairbanks administrative positions are more equitably distributed between men and women.

In the field of education, women are almost excluded from top administrative posts although they comprise a majority of professional employees. In the medical and justice systems, women appear to experience greater equality in top level positions than exists in the educational field. Female civilian employees of the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force, female employees of state government and female employees of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are all heavily concentrated in low pay, low grade occupations. Female

managers on the Alyeska pipeline project are a small proportion of all managers.

In the professions, women are concentrated in low status professional occupations and experience a significant pay differential in all fields we have considered. Women comprise only 25 percent of all state government professionals. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission data for 1970 through 1975 on Alaska's major employers indicate that the female share of professional employment was 25 percent in 1970, increased to slightly over 30 percent of all professionals in the 1973-74 period, then dropped to 21 percent of the professionals reported in 1975.

We recommend that the State Legislature support creation of a State Salary Commission or similar agency to review job classifications in all areas of employment and to recommend time tables for elimination of sex-based salary pay schedules, seniority practices and other employment practices. Seniority allowances need to be paid to victims of discrimination found in the Department of Education and salary and promotional opportunities available within the clerical field.

We also strongly support additional funding for the Alaska Human Rights Commission to increase its enforcement effectiveness in dealing with sex bias and other forms of employment discrimination.

Poverty

The special needs of female-headed households in poverty and methods of reducing or preventing higher levels of dependency on welfare and other state services need to be investigated. Methods of increasing the availability of on-the-job training and subsidized classroom training for female heads of families need to be investigated. The alternative to these programs appears to be an increasing number of female heads of household and their children on welfare and in poverty. We recommend that a study of the poverty problem of female-headed households in Alaska be completed as soon as possible.

Divorced Women

Divorced women who are family heads suffer severe economic difficulties. A random sample of child support cases drawn from the newly formed Child Support Enforcement Agency's files indicates that average support received by these divorced women with children is less than one-half of court-

ordered support, which is in turn typically far below actual need. Cases before the Child Support Enforcement Agency include all court-ordered support divorce cases recently processed in Anchorage, as well as problem cases from previous years. The average monthly amount paid our sample of women was \$64.00 per month, while the average amount court-ordered was \$166.56. Since 1970, the average arrearage in child support for our sample of 270 divorce cases was \$1,283.00.

We recommend that the Child Support Enforcement Agency receive the necessary funding to assure effective enforcement of court-ordered child support. Both considerations of justice and the potential savings in state poverty related service funds expended for divorced mothers suggest that increased funding of this agency would be in the best interests of the state.

Minority Women

Since minority women are more heavily concentrated in lower paying clerical and service jobs, it is not surprising that minority female heads of household are particularly vulnerable to the problems of poverty. While Native males in particular appear to have benefited from greater opportunity on the trans-Alaska pipeline project, this does not appear to have been the case for Native females. Minority females hold only 5 percent of all state government jobs. From 1970 to 1975, minority employment statewide appears to have been about 12 percent of total employment, based on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission sample of employers. Minority female employment ranged from 3 percent to 6 percent during these years.

We recommend that greater efforts be made at all levels of state government to recruit and train on the job minority women. We also recommend that additional funding to the State Human Rights Commission's enforcement efforts be provided, as well as additional funds for public education concerning the rights of minority women.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Mental Health Statistics

An obstacle to acquiring information for this study was posed by the failure of some mental health agencies to keep statistics and records by sex. This failure prevents agencies from monitoring and assessing their programs as they affect women and from gaining knowledge to guide mental health planning for women. The State Legislature should direct its mental health agencies to maintain statistics and records by sex and to monitor the effectiveness of their work with women.

Access to Services

Psychiatric services and key professionals are concentrated in the urban areas of the state. For example, nearly three-fourths of psychologists and psychiatrists are located in the Anchorage area. This imbalance can exacerbate the psychological stress experienced by rural residents. In addition to their problem, they must also face the stress of leaving home for treatment. This poses special problems for mothers who face the additional problem of arranging care for their children. The State Legislature should provide funds for a program of community mental health aides for the rural parts of the state similar to the Alaska Area Native Health Service program of community health aides.

Displaced Homemakers

Many women face a crisis after divorce or in mid-life when they re-enter the labor market after years living exclusively as a homemaker and often lacking marketable skills. These women need special services that provide not only training but financial assistance and special counseling which is sensitive to and knowledgeable about their needs. The State Legislature should consider funding a pilot program similar to that proposed in the California Legislature to provide counseling, training, and financial assistance for displaced homemakers in training.

Divorced Women

Divorced women face a set of crises, many of which are distinct from those experienced by men; the women often face

poverty, the stress associated with re-entry into the labor market, feelings of failure, stigmatization by others, insecurity about the future, and sexual deprivation. Despite the distinctiveness of these problems, special support services for these women are unavailable except the small scale program offered by the Alaska Women's Resource Center. Given the importance of social interventions at critical points in life, such as divorce, to avert emotional breakdowns, the State Legislature should provide funds for counseling programs for women in divorce and other crises. The State Legislature should also provide funds for research that will systematically document problems of divorced women in Alaska, as a basis for refining support services for them.

Battered Wives

Though systematic documentation is lacking, wife battering appears to be a serious problem in Alaska. The pattern in the marriages of battered wives known to the author is one of near tyranny where husbands keep wives penniless and isolated to prevent the wives from leaving them. From intimidation and fear, financial security, and low self esteem, the wives often stay in the marriages for long periods of time. These marriages then become fertile ground for transmitting violent patterns from one generation to the next. As society does not recognize wife battering as a social problem, there are few mental health or social agency programs for battered wives. The most important immediate need of battered wives is an emergency shelter where they can go with their children to receive protection, support, and counsel while evolving a solution to their problem. There is no emergency shelter for women and their children in Alaska. The State Legislature should provide funds for emergency shelters for women. The State Legislature should alter State Division of Social Service regulations that prevent granting emergency assistance to battered wives before they have moved to a new location. The State Legislature should also provide funds for research to understand the prevalence and causes of wife battering as a basis for planning in the mental health and criminal justice fields.

Sex Bias in the Mental Health Profession

Most women work for a large part of their lives, yet they often receive little preparation for this reality. Women are still trained to expect that some man will take care of them and that if they work it will not represent a serious, long-term commitment. The mental health profession

appears to perpetuate this sex bias with its expectation that women fulfill traditional feminine roles. Some of the practitioners interviewed for this study appear to be unaware that this emphasis on traditional roles represents a sex bias. To them, it seems natural. The State Legislature should consider establishing a commission to investigate sex bias in state mental health services as a basis for establishing training conferences for mental health professionals.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Changing Health Status of Women

Alaska males have a shorter life expectancy and higher death rates for most major causes of death than Alaska females. The male death rate exceeds the female most significantly in suicide, accidents, diseases of the heart, homicide, and alcoholism. Most of these disorders are thought to be associated with stress. The question arises, as women become increasingly like men in their growing commitment to full time work, to careers, and to responsibility for family support, will women's rates of heart disease, alcoholism, and suicide increase. We recommend that the State Legislature provide funds for a study which compares working women with housewives and with men as a tool for health planning and for economic planning about the organization of work in Alaska.

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Women's Health Insurance Coverage

Females appear to be covered for health insurance as frequently as males, but national evidence suggests that private insurance companies discriminate against women and deny them needed medical benefits. Companies habitually offer inadequate coverage for maternity care, and few companies cover voluntary sterilization. In Alaska, federal and state employees (excluding those at the University of Alaska) are not covered for voluntary sterilization. The health care problem for women is compounded by the recent Supreme Court ruling (General Electric Company v. Martha V. Gilbert et. al., December 7, 1976) which held that an employer's disability income protection plan which fails to cover pregnancy is not in violation of Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Vasectomies, circumcision, prostatectomies, sports injuries, elective cosmetic surgery, and disabilities incurred in the commission of a crime or during a fight all fall within the scope of the company's disability payment plan. Only pregnancy is exempted. The State Legislature should order an investigation of the adequacy of health insurance coverage for employees of the state of Alaska; in addition, the legislature could direct the State Commissioner of Insurance to issue a ruling forbidding any form of sex-based differential coverage in the group or individual health insurance plans offered by any insurance companies or agents within the state of Alaska.

Furthermore, it is likely that uninsured females who lack access to publically supported health services encounter more difficulties than men in similar situations in paying the costs of health care because women earn on the average significantly less than men. The State Legislature should direct the Alaska Division of Health to systematically determine the number of women (and men) who lack health insurance and access to publically supported health services, and who are unable to pay the cost of health care, and to develop programs to correct this deprivation.

Reproductive Health Services

Reproductive health services in Alaska, provided by Family Planning Centers, furnish birth control information, pregnancy tests, pre and postnatal care, family planning and counseling, and most importantly, pap smears for cancer prevention. The Family Planning Center in Anchorage faces an ever growing demand for services from women of all socioeconomic classes, many of whom assert a preference for these services over those provided by private practitioners. Yet, the Anchorage Family Planning Center is unable to adequately meet this growing demand or advertise its program at present funding levels. The State contributed a total of only \$40,000 for Family Planning Centers in FY-76. Furthermore, as the seven Family Planning Centers in the state are located in large towns and cities, rural women are deprived of these services. The State Legislature should increase the appropriation for the Family Planning Centers sufficiently to 1) increase staff size so that the Centers can meet the growing demand for services and advertise its program to additional women and 2) to extend the network of Centers to rural areas.

Abortion Services

The legalization of abortions in Alaska represents an important stride in enabling women to decide how they will use their bodies. But abortion services are organized in ways that create obstacles to their use. One obstacle is the concentration of services in two cities in the state-- Anchorage and Fairbanks, allegedly because of the lack of staff trained in abortion procedures in other places. Additional barriers are the costs of transportation to these places for women who live elsewhere and the high costs of the abortion itself for women who are unable to pay them and lack access to financial assistance from public agencies or relatives. These barriers undoubtedly discourage women

with unwanted pregnancies from getting abortions, and in so doing, they promote the production of unwanted offspring, a situation that is damaging to both mother and child. To overcome these barriers to the use of abortion services, the State Legislature could appropriate funds for the Alaska Division of Public Health to establish a more widespread network of abortion services, especially in rural areas, to train staff in abortion procedures, and to provide financial assistance for abortion costs for women without the necessary means.

Sex Imbalance in the Medical Profession

Women interviewed for this study complained that male physicians treated them as if they were neurotic or child-like and incapable of making major decisions about the care of their bodies. A substantial proportion of women using Family Planning Centers explicitly stated a preference for reproductive services provided by female rather than male practitioners. Males overwhelmingly predominate in the medical profession; 93.6 percent of Alaska physicians are men. This sex imbalance is due not only to discrimination in medical schools admission practices, but also to women's failure to pursue medical careers. Their disinterest undoubtedly reflects in part sex bias in the schools which discourages women from pursuing math and scientific subjects, subjects necessary for medical careers. To encourage the entrance of women into medical careers, the State Legislature could direct the Alaska Department of Education to provide women special programs in science and math to overcome the effects of past sex bias in education.

RECOMMENDATIONS

THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD REVISE THE RAPE STATUTES TO

1. ELIMINATE ALL EXPLICIT AND IMPLICIT REQUIREMENTS FOR USE OF PHYSICAL FORCE BY THE DEFENDANT AND ACTUAL RESISTANCE BY THE VICTIM;
2. ELIMINATE SPOUSAL IMMUNITY IN RAPE CASES; AND
3. LIMIT EVIDENCE OF THE VICTIM'S PRIOR SEXUAL CONDUCT TO ACTIVITIES WITH THE DEFENDANT AND BROADEN THE EVIDENTIARY EXCLUSION TO COVER OTHER ASPECTS OF THE VICTIM'S PRIVATE LIFE.

THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD CONSIDER

1. ADOPTING A DEGREE STRUCTURE FOR RAPE WITH VARYING PENALTIES FOR DIFFERENT DEGREES OF THE CRIME;
2. FUNDING A COURT-WATCHING PROGRAM TO INVESTIGATE EVIDENTIARY PRACTICES, USE OF INSTRUCTIONS, PROSECUTION PERFORMANCE, AND VICTIM TREATMENT;
3. PROVIDING SENTENCING GUIDELINES FOR CONVICTED RAPISTS; AND
4. STUDYING ALTERNATIVES FOR REHABILITATION OF RAPISTS.

THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING TO INSURE COMPLIANCE WITH COURT ORDERS FOR PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT FOR CONVICTED RAPISTS.

POLICE DEPARTMENTS SHOULD:

1. PROVIDE SPECIALIZED INVESTIGATORS FOR RAPE CASES, INCLUDING FEMALE OFFICERS;
2. EVALUATE THEIR USE OF LIE DETECTOR TESTS FOR RAPE VICTIMS AND, IF NECESSARY, PROMULGATE GUIDELINES FOR THE TAKING OF SUCH TESTS; AND
3. INSURE THAT OFFICERS HANDLING RAPE CASES ARE APPRISED OF ALL NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN RAPE LAW.

PROSECUTORS SHOULD:

1. ASSIGN RAPE CASES TO ATTORNEYS SPECIALIZING IN THEIR PROSECUTION;
 2. DEVELOP AND PRACTICE SENSITIVITY TOWARDS VICTIMS AND COMMUNICATE OPENLY WITH THEM; AND
 3. PROVIDE OR DEVELOP LIASONS WITH VICTIM COUNSELING SERVICES TO MEET VICTIM NEEDS AND ENCOURAGE VICTIM COOPERATION WITH THE SYSTEM.
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THE DIVISION OF CORRECTIONS SHOULD COMPLY WITH COURT ORDERS FOR PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT OF CONVICTED RAPISTS.

RECOMMENDATIONS

THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD DIRECT THE DIVISION OF CORRECTIONS TO CONDUCT A NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF WOMEN OFFENDERS AND TO REVIEW EXISTING FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN OFFENDERS TO DETERMINE WHERE SUCH FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS DO NOT MEASURE UP TO THOSE PROVIDED MALE OFFENDERS AND DO NOT ADEQUATELY MEET THE NEEDS OF WOMEN OFFENDERS.

THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD DIRECT THE DIVISION OF CORRECTIONS TO EXPLORE ALTERNATIVES TO INSTITUTIONALIZATION FOR WOMEN OFFENDERS, SUCH AS PRE-TRIAL INTERVENTION AND HALFWAY HOUSES, AND TO IMPLEMENT SUCH PROGRAMS AS APPEAR PRACTICABLE, ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS.

THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN OFFENDERS.

THE DIVISION OF CORRECTIONS SHOULD ELIMINATE THE SEX SEGREGATION RULE WHERE IT IMPEDES FULL EQUALITY IN FACILITIES OR PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN OFFENDERS; IN THE ALTERNATIVE, IF NECESSARY, THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD ENACT LEGISLATION REQUIRING SUCH CURTAILMENT OF THE SEGREGATION RULE.

THE LEGISLATURE OR MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS SHOULD PROVIDE BEDS FOR RUNAWAY YOUTH NOT UNDER STATE CUSTODY PURSUANT TO DOCUMENTED NEED.

THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD STUDY THE POSITION OF STATUS OFFENDERS IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND MAKE APPROPRIATE CODE REVISIONS FOR GREATER FAMILY INVOLVEMENT, MORE OR LESS JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT, OR OTHER APPROACHES TO THE PROBLEM OF STATUS OFFENDERS.

THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD FUND A SIX-BED CLOSED UNIT FOR GIRLS AT McLAUGHLIN YOUTH CENTER.

JUDGES AND JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM INTAKE PERSONNEL AT THE COURT SYSTEM SHOULD EXAMINE THEIR OWN PROCESSING OF JUVENILE CASES TO UNCOVER ANY POSSIBLE SEX DISCRIMINATION.

RECOMMENDATIONS

THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD ADOPT LEGISLATION:

1. PROVIDING FOR PROBABLE CAUSE MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS IN CASES WHERE ONE ADULT MEMBER OF A HOUSEHOLD HAS ASSAULTED ANOTHER; AND
2. AMENDING THE VIOLENT CRIMES COMPENSATION STATUTE TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR BATTERED WIVES.

THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD FUND SHELTERS FOR BATTERED WIVES.

THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD CONSIDER LEGISLATION REQUIRING THAT DOCTORS, SOCIAL WORKERS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS REPORT INCIDENTS OF WIFE BEATING MUCH AS CHILD ABUSE IS NOW REPORTED.

THE POLICE SHOULD:

1. MAINTAIN STATISTICS ON WIFE BEATING CALLS;
2. PROVIDE IMPROVED ATTITUDE TRAINING IN RELATION TO WIFE BEATING;
3. HIRE QUALIFIED FEMALE PATROL OFFICERS TO BE AVAILABLE TO RESPOND TO CASES OF WIFE BEATING;
4. CONSIDER INNOVATIVE CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAMS OPERATED IN CONJUNCTION WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS; AND
5. UPON ARREST OF A MAN IN RESPONSE TO A WIFE BEATING, DETERMINE IF BAIL NEEDS TO BE SET AT MORE THAN THE USUAL \$25.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEYS SHOULD:

1. HIRE, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF GRANTS IF POSSIBLE, SUPPORT PERSONNEL TO ASSIST BATTERED WIVES AND OTHER VICTIMS OF CRIME IN MEETING THEIR IMMEDIATE NEEDS AND MAKING PROSECUTION DECISIONS; AND
2. DEVELOP MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDES TOWARDS PROSECUTION OF WIFE BEATING CASES.

JUDGES SHOULD:

1. RE-EVALUATE BAIL SCHEDULES FOR ASSAULT AND BATTERY CHARGES; AND
2. ALTER SENTENCING PRACTICES IN WIFE BEATING CASES TO MATCH THE SEVERITY OF THE CRIME AND IMPROVE CHANCES OF REFORM.

RECOMMENDATIONS

THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD ADOPT LEGISLATION:

1. PROVIDING OBJECTIVE STANDARDS FOR AWARDING ALIMONY;
2. REQUIRING FULL DISCLOSURE OF ASSETS IN ALL CONTESTED DIVORCE CASES;
3. PROVIDING FOR COURT-ORDERED WAGE ASSIGNMENTS TO INSURE PAYMENT OF ALIMONY OBLIGATIONS;
4. LIMITING THE COURTS' JURISDICTION TO MODIFY CUSTODY DECISIONS FROM OTHER STATES AND TO HEAR CUSTODY CASES WHEN THE CHILD HAS NO SUBSTANTIAL CONNECTION WITH ALASKA;
5. GIVING PRIORITY ON COURT CALENDAR TO CUSTODY CASES.

THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD FUND THE CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY AT A LEVEL SUFFICIENT TO ALLOW THE AGENCY TO FULFILL ITS RESPONSIBILITIES.

THE COURTS SHOULD

1. REFRAIN FROM MAKING MORAL JUDGMENTS IN CUSTODY CASES AND AWARD CUSTODY SOLELY ON THE GROUNDS OF THE CHILD'S BEST INTERESTS;
2. REQUIRE EVIDENCE OF MAXIMUM EFFORT TO LOCATE AND NOTIFY ABSENT PARENTS PRIOR TO ADJUDICATING CUSTODY ON A TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT BASIS;
3. EXPEDITE CUSTODY DISPUTES BY GIVING THEM PRIORITY ON COURT CALENDARS AND ABOLISHING THE USE OF MASTERS IN CUSTODY CASES;
4. INCLUDE ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS, SUCH AS WAGE ASSIGNMENTS IF AVAILABLE, IN ALIMONY AND CHILD SUPPORT ORDERS AT THE TIME SUCH ORDERS ARE ISSUED.

THE ANCHORAGE BAR ASSOCIATION SHOULD EVALUATE THE PROPRIETY OF MODIFYING ITS REFERRAL SERVICE TO PROVIDE GREATER ACCESS TO FEMALE ATTORNEYS FOR CLIENTS EXPRESSLY REQUESTING A FEMALE REFERRAL.

RECOMMENDATIONS

THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL SHOULD:

1. IMMEDIATELY REVISE ITS JUDICIAL APPLICATION FORM TO ELIMINATE QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO MARITAL AND PARENTAL STATUS;
2. REFRAIN FROM ASKING PERSONAL QUESTIONS WHICH DO NOT BEAR ON AN APPLICANT'S POTENTIAL COMPETENCE AS A JUDGE; AND
3. REVIEW THE FORM, USE AND DESIRABILITY OF THE BAR POLL IN THE JUDICIAL SELECTION PROCESS.

THE ALASKA BAR ASSOCIATION AND THE GOVERNOR SHOULD APPOINT QUALIFIED WOMEN TO POSITIONS ON THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL WHEN VACANCIES NEXT OCCUR.

EMPLOYERS, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, SHOULD REVIEW THEIR HIRING PRACTICES AND WORK ASSIGNMENTS TO INSURE AGAINST SEX DISCRIMINATION, EXPLICIT OR IMPLICIT.

JUDGES SHOULD EVALUATE THEIR TREATMENT OF FEMALE LITIGANTS AND ATTORNEYS TO UNCOVER ANY BIASES PRODUCING UNJUSTIFIED LENIENCY OR NEGATIVE DISCRIMINATION.

FEMALE ATTORNEYS SHOULD:

1. IF QUALIFIED AND INTERESTED, APPLY FOR AVAILABLE JUDGEShips AND JUDICIAL COUNCIL POSITIONS; AND
2. INSIST THAT THOSE WHO SHARE THEIR HOUSEHOLD ALSO SHARE THE DOMESTIC RESPONSIBILITIES.

CONCLUSION

This study was designed to learn if women in Alaska are confronted by barriers to full equality in the justice system and in the fields of health, education and employment. The investigation has resulted in unequivocal, affirmative findings. We now know that educational materials are not free from anachronistic stereotyping, that female health problems do not receive adequate attention, that women are still, at this late date, channeled into low-income jobs, that battered and raped women do not get full measure from the justice system, that divorcees sometimes suffer at the hands of moralistic judges, that women prisoners grow ever more hostile against the society that confines them in inadequate facilities, and that our system for selecting judges fosters discrimination against women.

Numerous specific recommendations have been presented to meet the many specific problems examined. But a broader perspective and broader reforms are also needed. Increased funding for the Human Rights Commission is essential. Serious consideration should also be given to the establishment of an Alaskan commission on the status of women.

Pursuant to state law and court decisions, the Human Rights Commission has authority to investigate and resolve individual discrimination complaints, file class actions, conduct discrimination-related research and provide public education. Unfortunately, however, the Commission's practical ability to act is not commensurate with its authority. Limited funding restricts Commission activities essentially to the resolution of individual cases. Class action suits--the most effective means of combating institutional discrimination--and research and education--the sine qua non for changing ingrained attitudes underlying much discrimination--cannot be pursued. And even in regard to the handling of individual complaints, there is not enough money for expeditious processing. With current Commission backlogs, new cases take at least a year to process. If progress is to be made on our commitment to eradicating discrimination, its causes and effects, the Human Rights Commission must be more adequately funded.

However, because women's problems are so numerous and complex, and because they have been disregarded for so long, the Human Rights Commission probably cannot be expected to respond to them all, even with increased funding. Virtually every other state in the nation has a commission on the status of women. Alaska should explore the desirability of

establishing such an agency, with financial support sufficient to allow it to function effectively.

The responsibilities of a status of women commission could be manifold. As this study frequently illustrates, there is a substantial need for the collection of data on women's experiences and needs. Battered wives exemplify this information gap; it exists in regard to sex discrimination in employment, credit practices, education, law enforcement, various agency services, and other areas as well. The commission could also perform valuable analyses of sex stereotyping in the media, advertising, textbooks and counseling practices, to suggest only a few subjects. Information gathered by the agency could be made available to the Legislature, to industry and government and labor organizations and women's groups--and of course, to the Human Rights Commission. The status of women commission could also serve as a clearinghouse for information, ideas and activities emanating not only from the state and local municipalities, but also from other states, the federal government, and national organizations. The potential for further endeavors is limitless.

In considering the establishment of such a commission, objections concerning the expenditure of additional funds, the possibly divisive effect of providing a distinct organization for one "minority," and the questionable desirability of creating another bureaucracy would have to be weighed. But this study--albeit preliminary only--documents so many extensive problems in only a few areas of women's lives, that more than piecemeal reform appears to be necessary. It may well be that women require one agency solely directed to meeting their needs.

This study on the status of women, then, has presented a broad picture of women's problems in the areas of health, employment, education and the justice system. It has specified concrete recommendations for legislative reform, state agency action, funding of particular programs, attitudinal changes, and, in some cases, further study. And it has recommended increased funding for the Human Rights Commission and consideration of the establishment of a commission on the status of women. It now remains for this Legislature to follow the equalitarian lead established by its territorial forefathers in 1913. Action should be taken now to improve the status of women in Alaska.



LAWS OF ALASKA

1978

Chapter No.

120

Source

SCS CSRB 303 am S

AN ACT

Creating the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women.

AS ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

Section 1. AS 44.19 is amended by adding new sections to

Sec. 44.19.956. CREATION OF COMMISSION. There is created in the office of the Governor the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women.

Sec. 44.19.957. COMPOSITION. The commission consists of nine members and an ex officio member representing the office of the attorney general who shall serve at the pleasure of the governor.

Sec. 44.19.958. APPOINTMENT. (a) The members shall be appointed on a nonpartisan and nondiscriminatory basis by the governor within 60 days of the effective date of this Act. The members shall be residents of the state. At least one member shall be a homemaker who is not otherwise employed. In making the appointments, due consideration shall be given to

(1) the recommendations made by civic organizations, women's organizations, educational and vocational groups, employer groups, labor unions, church groups, homemakers clubs and organizations, and other groups having an interest in the status of women;

(2) statewide geographical representation of the commission; and

(3) minority and low-income representation.

Chapter 120

(b) The commission shall elect one of its members as chairperson and may select other commission officers as it considers necessary.

Sec. 44.19.959. MEETINGS. Within 60 days after the appointment of all the members of the commission, the governor shall call the first meeting of the commission. The majority of the members constitutes a quorum for conducting business and exercising the powers of the commission. The commission shall meet at the call of the chairperson, at the request of a majority of the members, or at a regularly scheduled time as determined by a majority of the members.

Sec. 44.19.961. TERMS OF OFFICE. The term of office of each member is five years. Terms shall be staggered. Initial terms shall be three members serving for one year, three members serving for three years, and three members serving for five years. A vacancy shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as original appointments.

Sec. 44.19.962. COMPENSATION. Members of the commission receive no compensation for their services but are entitled to per diem and travel allowances authorized by law for other boards and commissions.

Sec. 44.19.963. PURPOSE. The purpose of the commission is to implement the recommendations contained in the preliminary study on the status of women in Alaska which was mandated by the Ninth Legislature, Second Session, under ch. 99 SIA 1976, and improve the status of women in Alaska by conducting further research and by making and implementing additional recommendations on the opportunities, needs, problems, and contributions of women in Alaska, including, but not limited to,

- (1) education,
- (2) homemaking,
- (3) civil and legal rights,
- (4) labor and employment.

Sec. 44.19.964. POWERS AND DUTIES. To accomplish its purpose, the commission may

- (1) hire an executive director and additional administrative staff as may be necessary to the commission's function;
- (2) act as a clearinghouse and coordinating body for governmental and nongovernmental information relating to the status of women;
- (3) cooperate with public and private agencies in joint efforts to study and resolve problems relating to the status of women in Alaska;
- (4) accumulate and compile information concerning discrimination against women;
- (5) disseminate the results of research and

Chapter 120
compilation of data acquired under (4) of this section by publication and other methods such as public hearings, conferences, and seminars;

(6) study and analyze all facts relating to Alaska laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to equal protection for women under the state constitution;

(7) recommend legislative and administrative action on equal treatment and opportunities for women;

(8) select and retain the services of consultants whose advice is considered necessary to assist the commission in obtaining information;

(9) encourage women to utilize their capabilities and to assume leadership roles;

(10) establish standing committees among the members to investigate and make recommendations on various areas of concern;

(11) create task forces composed of commission members and other experts as needed;

(12) accept monetary gifts or grants from the federal government or an agency of it, from any charitable foundation or professional association or from any other reputable source for implementation of any program necessary or desirable for carrying out the general purposes of the commission.

Sec. 44.19.966. ANNUAL REPORT. Each year the commission shall file a report with the governor and the legislature of its proceedings for the previous calendar year and shall submit recommendations for legislative and administrative action. Reports and recommendations required under this section shall be prepared no later than the convening of the legislature.

* Sec. 2. The Alaska Commission on the Status of Women created under AS 44.19.956 shall terminate on June 30, 1983.



STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION
3601 C STREET - SUITE 742
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503

LIST OF STATEWIDE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE ENDORSED
THE ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION'S PLATFORM

1. Alaska Women's Lobby Jane Varatti, State Chairwoman - 338-1525
Sherri Goll, Juneau representative - 586-4788
2. Alaska Women's Political Caucus Jean Craciun, State Chairwoman - 274-9553
Barbara Sheinberg, Juneau representative - 465-3562
3. Alaska State Association for the Education of Young Children Mary Huelsman, State Chairwoman - 276-7723
Lynn McKinnon, Juneau representative - 586-4077
4. American Association of University Women Marcia Oswalt, State Chairwoman - 486-3131
Twyla Coughlin, Juneau representative - 586-6806
5. Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Jana Varatti, Chairwoman - 338-1525
Margot Dick, Juneau representative - 586-3650
6. Alaska Human Rights Comm. Janet Bradley, Executive Director - 276-7474
Bienvenido Holganza, Juneau representative - 780-6739
7. Anchorage Women's Comm. Carol Waters, Chair - 274-4582
8. Business & Professional Women's Club Linda Brechen, President - 479-3463
Janice Holst, Juneau representative - 586-1462
9. National Organization for Women Jan Erickson, President - 522-1417
Lillian Ruederick, Juneau representative - 364-2291
10. Older Alaskans Commission Peggy Burgin, Chair - 278-2102
Dove Kull, Juneau representative - 586-2670
11. Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Barbara Miklos, Executive Director - 465-4356

ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION

1986 Legislative Platform

1. Pension Reform - HB 237 - Requires spouses to become the automatic beneficiaries of public employee retirement plans unless waived by the spouse. Makes retirement benefits assignable to satisfy marital property rights.
2. Parental Leave - HB 238 - Changes maternity leave to parental leave for State employees; increases the amount of parental leave without pay from 9 to 16 weeks; and allows an employee to purchase back up to 16 weeks of retirement credit while on parental leave without pay.
3. Dissolution and Divorce - HB 496 - Requires greater judicial review in dissolutions; requires both parties to attend the dissolution hearing; and, includes retirement benefits as assets. The bill also provides the needy spouse with attorney's fees and interim support during a divorce.
4. Children - HB 497 - Requires greater judicial scrutiny in child custody determination; option of both parents responsible for children's actions for shoplifting regardless of who has custody; standardizes the birth certificate preparation for all children, whether or not they are born out of wedlock.
5. Evidence of Prior Sexual Conduct in Sexual Assault Cases - HB 498 - Prohibits the prior sexual conduct of a victim, other than with the person accused of the crime, as admissible in a trial.
6. Inheritance and Probate - HB 499 - Increases the surviving spouse's share from one-third to one-half, and provides that past due child support payments be given the highest priority among creditors of a deceased's estate.
7. Revisor of Statutes Bill - HB 493 - Changes the word "pimp" to "promoter of prostitution"; standardizes name change provisions in divorce and dissolution laws; replaces father, mother, grandfather, and grandmother to parents and grandparents in the burial costs of needy persons statute; replaces the words "widow", "dower", and "curtesy" with "surviving spouse" in two-partnership laws; and replaces father and mother with the word parents in the birth certificate preparation.



3 3500 00205 9855

ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION

1992 Annual Report

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ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION

Commissioners

Barbara Tyndall, Chair, Fairbanks
Karen McGahan, Vice Chair, Kenai
Nancy Ayagarak, Bethel
Karen Byron, Wasilla
Virginia Phillips, Sitka
Robin States, Fairbanks
Lynn Aleshire, Anchorage
Jean McKnight, Anchorage

Volunteer Staff

Carol Mikos

State of Alaska

Walter J. Hickel, Governor
John B. (Jack) Coghill, Lt. Governor

PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION

The Alaska Women's Commission is dedicated to the achievement of equal legal, economic, social and political status for women in Alaska.

Nine public members and one representative from the Attorney General's Office are appointed by the Governor to staggered three-year terms. They represent a wide range of backgrounds, interests and geographic areas. Meetings are held two times per year and are open to the public.

The commission is a statewide network for study and action on a variety of issues. Current priorities include employment, civil and legal rights, and issues relating to the family.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Alaska Women's Commission presents its 1992 annual report, detailing the Commission's projects for the calendar year.

The goals of the Commission have remained consistent as the Alaska Women's Commission strives to equip and prepare Alaska's women for the nineties. The Alaska Women's Fund, Leadership in Sobriety Conference, and Developing Capable People series have all contributed in making our goals a reality.

Publications addressing specific areas of need have continued to be made available to women throughout the state. Among these are the Leadership in Sobriety books, Women's Legal Rights Handbook, and Teen Pregnancy booklets.

A spirit of volunteerism and dedicated service has had a marked effect upon the continuation of services provided by this Commission in 1992. We wish to thank Carol Mikos for her hard work and continued support. Her knowledge and expertise have proved invaluable to this Commission. We would also like to thank Carol Sturgulewski for her year of service. Her work on the Leadership in Sobriety books and public relations work for the Women's Fund is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Barbara Tyndall

Barbara Tyndall
Chair

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 69(STA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/20/09

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): SENATORS DAVIS, Ellis

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act reestablishing the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women; and relating to**
2 **the purpose and powers of the Alaska Human Relations Commission."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 44.19 is amended by adding new sections to read:

5 **Article 6. Alaska Commission on the Status of Women.**

6 **Sec. 44.19.628. Creation and membership of commission.** (a) The Alaska
7 Commission on the Status of Women is established in the Office of the Governor.

8 (b) The commission consists of two members of the executive branch and
9 seven public members, appointed by the governor, who serve at the pleasure of the
10 governor. All members shall be residents of the state. At least one public member shall
11 be a person who manages a household that includes the person's spouse and at least
12 one child and who is not otherwise employed.

13 (c) The governor shall appoint members on a nonpartisan and
14 nondiscriminatory basis. In making the appointments, the governor shall consider

(1) recommendations made by civic organizations, women's organizations, educational and vocational groups, employer groups, labor unions, church groups, homemakers' clubs and organizations, and other groups having an interest in the welfare and status of women;

(2) the statewide geographical representation of the commission;

(3) minority and low-income representation;

(4) the representation of senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and persons from a variety of occupational categories; and

(5) the representation of persons with different marital statuses and persons with various numbers of children.

(d) The commission shall elect one of its members as chair. The chair may appoint other officers as necessary.

Sec. 44.19.629. Terms of office; compensation. (a) The term of office of a member of the commission is three years. Terms shall be staggered. A member may not serve more than six consecutive years.

(b) A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. A person appointed to a vacancy serves for the unexpired portion of a term.

(c) Public members of the commission do not receive compensation for their services but are entitled to per diem and travel allowances authorized by law for other boards and commissions.

Sec. 44.19.630. Meetings. A majority of the members constitutes a quorum for conducting business and exercising the powers of the commission. The commission shall meet at the call of the chair, at the request of the majority of the members, or at a regularly scheduled time as determined by a majority of the members.

Sec. 44.19.631. Powers and duties of the commission. (a) The purpose of the commission is to improve the status of women in the state by conducting research, by serving as a referral service for information and education to help women avail themselves of existing resources to meet their needs, and by making and implementing recommendations on the opportunities, needs, problems, and contributions of women in the state, including

(1) education;

- (2) homemaking;
- (3) civil and legal rights; and
- (4) labor and employment.

(b) To accomplish this purpose, the commission may

(1) act as a clearinghouse and coordinating body for governmental and nongovernmental information relating to the status of women;

(2) cooperate with public and private agencies in joint efforts to study and resolve problems relating to the status of women in the state;

(3) accumulate and compile information concerning discrimination against women;

(4) disseminate the results of research and compilation of data acquired under (3) of this subsection by publication and other methods, such as public hearings, conferences, and seminars;

(5) study and analyze all facts relating to Alaska laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to equal protection for women under the state constitution;

(6) recommend legislative and administrative action on equal treatment and opportunities for women;

(7) encourage women to use their capabilities and to assume leadership roles;

(8) encourage the development of regional and municipal women's councils or commissions; and

(9) accept, on behalf of the state, contributions of services, materials, or money to assist in meeting the cost of carrying out AS 44.19.628 - 44.19.631.

(c) When conducting research, acting as a referral service, serving as a forum for ideas, or developing recommendations related to the welfare of women, the commission shall solicit and consider information and views from a variety of constituencies to represent the broad spectrum of diversity that exists with respect to possible approaches for meeting the needs of women in the state.

(d) On the request of the commission, an executive branch department shall cooperate with the commission in the performance of its duties under this section. The commission may use legal, technical, secretarial, and administrative services as may

1 be provided by the governor.

2 (e) The commission shall prepare and publish an annual report on the status of
3 women in the state, the commission's proceedings for the previous calendar year, and
4 its recommendations and proposals for change. The commission shall provide the
5 governor and legislature with copies of the report by the 15th day of each regular
6 legislative session.

7 * Sec. 2. AS 44.19.608 is repealed.

8 * Sec. 3. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
9 read:

10 MEMBERS OF THE ALASKA COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN;
11 STAGGERED TERMS. Notwithstanding AS 44.19.629, added by sec. 1 of this Act, the
12 terms of the initially appointed members of the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women,
13 established under AS 44.19.628, enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, shall be set in the manner
14 provided by AS 39.05.055(7).

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: CSSB 69(STA)
 (S) Publish Date: 3/20/09

Identifier (file name): SB069-OOG-CSW-3-13-09

Dept. Affected: OOG

Title "An Act reestablishing the Alaska Commission on the
Status of Women;..."

RDU Commissions & Special Offices

Component Commission on Status of Women

Sponsor Senators Davis, Ellis

Requester (S) State Affairs

Component Number

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information					
		FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
OPERATING EXPENDITURES							
Personal Services	264.1	264.1	272.3	280.4	289.3	297.5	307.5
Travel	22.2	22.2	22.2	22.2	22.2	22.2	22.2
Contractual	159.3	159.3	159.3	159.3	159.3	159.3	159.3
Supplies	7.2	7.2	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8
Equipment	52.4	52.4					
Land & Structures							
Grants & Claims							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	505.2	505.2	460.6	468.7	477.6	485.8	495.8

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()

FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF	505.2	505.2	460.6	468.7	477.6	485.8	495.8
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
TOTAL	505.2	505.2	460.6	468.7	477.6	485.8	495.8

Estimate of any current year (FY2009) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Analysis attached

Prepared by: Linda Perez, Administrative Director
 Division: Administrative Services
 Approved by: Linda Perez, Administrative Director
Administrative Services

Phone 465-3876
 Date/Time 3/13/09 1:30 PM
 Date 3/13/2009

Reestablishing the Commission on the Status of Women is an excellent way to focus attention on the major issues that impact women and children across our state.

The purpose of the commission would be to improve the status of women by conducting research, as well as serve as a referral service for information and education to help women avail themselves of existing resources to meet their needs. Additionally the commission would make and implementing recommendations on the opportunities, needs, problems, and contributions of women in the areas of education, homemaking, civil and legal rights, and labor and employment.

*Alaska Dept. of Labor, Alaska Economic Trends 5/08

Alaska with its unique culture, history, and challenges combined with its large size and small population, calls for innovative forward thinking to deal with many of the difficult issues facing Alaskan women and their families. The creation of a Commission on the Status of Women will once again focus the attention of Alaskan on these critical issues.

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE**

March 19, 2009

9:01 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Linda Menard, Chair
Senator Kevin Meyer, Vice Chair
Senator Hollis French
Senator Joe Paskvan

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Albert Kookesh

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

SENATE BILL NO. 69

"An Act reestablishing the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women; and relating to the purpose and powers of the Alaska Human Relations Commission."

MOVED CSSB 69(STA) OUT OF COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL NO. 78

"An Act relating to the powers and duties of the legislative audit division."

MOVED CSSB 78(STA) OUT OF COMMITTEE

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 63(FIN)

"An Act relating to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault."

MOVED SCS CSHB 63(STA) OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: SB 69

SHORT TITLE: COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

SPONSOR(S): SENATOR(S) DAVIS

01/21/09	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/21/09	(S)	STA, FIN
03/17/09	(S)	STA AT 9:00 AM BELTZ 211
03/17/09	(S)	Bill Postponed To 3/19/09

BILL: SB 78

SHORT TITLE: LEGISLATIVE AUDIT DIVISION POWERS

SPONSOR(S) : SENATOR(S) DYSON

01/26/09	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/26/09	(S)	STA, FIN
03/17/09	(S)	STA AT 9:00 AM BELTZ 211
03/17/09	(S)	Heard & Held
03/17/09	(S)	MINUTE(STA)

BILL: HB 63

SHORT TITLE: COUNCIL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: MEMBERS, STAFF

SPONSOR(S) : REPRESENTATIVE(S) FAIRCLOUGH, HOLMES, COGHILL,
WILSON

01/20/09	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/20/09	(H)	STA, FIN
01/20/09	(H)	PREFILE RELEASED 1/16/09
02/12/09	(H)	STA AT 8:00 AM CAPITOL 106
02/12/09	(H)	Moved CSHB 63(STA) Out of Committee
02/12/09	(H)	MINUTE(STA)
02/13/09	(H)	DP: JOHNSON, GATTO, SEATON, GRUENBERG, WILSON, PETERSEN, LYNN
02/13/09	(H)	STA RPT CS(STA) 7DP
02/26/09	(H)	FIN AT 1:30 PM HOUSE FINANCE 519
02/26/09	(H)	Moved CSHB 63(FIN) Out of Committee
02/26/09	(H)	MINUTE(FIN)
02/27/09	(H)	DP: THOMAS, GARA, CRAWFORD, JOULE, AUSTERMAN, KELLY, FAIRCLOUGH, SALMON,
02/27/09	(H)	STOLTZE
02/27/09	(H)	FIN RPT CS(FIN) 9DP
03/02/09	(H)	VERSION: CSHB 63(FIN)
03/02/09	(H)	TRANSMITTED TO (S)
03/09/09	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
03/09/09	(S)	STA, FIN
03/17/09	(S)	STA AT 9:00 AM BELTZ 211
03/17/09	(S)	Heard & Held
03/17/09	(S)	MINUTE(STA)

WITNESS REGISTER

SENATOR BETTYE DAVIS
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Presented SB 69 as sponsor.

LYNDA ZAUGG, Staff
to Senator Davis
Alaska State Legislature

Juneau AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Presented SB 69.

ARLISS STURGULEWSKI, Former Alaska State Senator
Anchorage AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Spoke in support of SB 69.

CAREN ROBINSON, Lobbyist
Alaska Women's Lobby
Juneau AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Spoke in support of SB 69.

HATTIE GARDNER, President
Alaska Federation of Business and Professional Women
Anchorage AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Spoke in support of SB 69.

ANNABELLE STEVENS, Member
Alaska Federation of Business and Professional Women
Anchorage AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Spoke in support of SB 69.

RAMONA DUBY, Member
Alaska Federation of Business and Professional Women
Anchorage AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Spoke in support of SB 69.

JANE ANGVIK, Board Member
Alaska Girl Scouts and Alaska Women's Political Caucus
Anchorage AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Spoke in support of SB 69.

BRITTANY GOODNIGHT, Board Member
Alaska Women's Political Caucus
Anchorage AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Spoke in support of SB 69.

LATANYA SEMONES
Fairbanks AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Spoke in support of SB 69.

KATHERINE FOREST
Anchorage AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Spoke in support of SB 69.

CLOVER SIMON, Alaska Vice President
Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest

Anchorage AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Spoke in support of SB 69.

SENATOR FRED DYSON

Alaska State Legislature

Juneau AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Presented SB 78.

PAT DAVIDSON, Auditor

Division of Legislative Audit

Juneau AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions about SB 78.

REPRESENTATIVE ANNA FAIRCLOUGH

Alaska State Legislature

Juneau AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Presented HB 63.

FATE PUTMAN, Assistant Business Manager

Alaska State Employees Association

Juneau AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Spoke in support of HB 63.

CHRIS ASHENBRENNER, Executive Director

Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Juneau AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Spoke in support of HB 63.

ACTION NARRATIVE

9:01:11 AM

CHAIR LINDA MENARD called the Senate State Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Senators Paskvan, French, and Menard were present at the call to order. Senator Meyer arrived shortly thereafter.

SB 69-COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

CHAIR MENARD announced the consideration of SB 69.

9:02:47 AM

SENATOR BETTYE DAVIS, Alaska State Legislature, sponsor, said the Commission on the Status of Women functioned well for quite awhile, but it went away once it was combined with another commission that never really got funded. Many women asked her to reestablish it.

CHAIR MENARD asked what commission it was combined with.

9:03:44 AM

LYNDA ZAUGG, Staff to Senator Davis, Alaska State Legislature, said it was the Alaska Human Relations Commission. She read the following sponsor statement:

It is time to once again acknowledge the contributions of women across Alaska. It is time to re-establish the Commission on the Status of Women.

In 1976 the legislature established the first Commission on the Status of Women to address the unique needs of Alaska's women and children. The Commission was tasked with implementing the recommendations contained in the preliminary study on the status of women. The Commission was to improve the status of women in Alaska through research and making and implementing additional recommendations on the opportunities, needs, problems, and contributions of women. The improvements made by the commission were to include, but not limited to, the areas of education, homemaking, civil & legal rights, labor, and employment. The Women's Commission was merged with Alaska Human Relations Commission in 1993, which continues to exist in state statute but has never been funded and was declared inactive in 1996.

Since 1993, the problems identified by the Commission on the Status of Women have continued to exist with minimal change and with ongoing negative impacts for Alaskan women and their families. Women represent half of our state, half of our work force, and consequently half of our ability. In order for us to continue to explore and develop our state to its full potential we must improve the opportunities for all citizens, including women.

In Alaska, women in government still earn only 80 percent of the income of men, while in the private sector women earn 62.4 percent of men. Women and children continue to be the most common victims of domestic abuse. Women in Alaska lead the nation as victims of sexual assaults. We have a struggling foster child system. Our high school students, both male and female, drop out at alarming rates. We have one of the lowest percentages of students entering and completing higher education programs. We have a significant economic divide between our urban and rural communities which negatively impacts all of us.

These are just a few of the issues facing women and children in our state that need to be addressed.

Reestablishing the Commission on the Status of Women is an excellent way to focus attention on the major issues that impact women and children.

The purpose of the commission would be to improve the status of women by conducting research, as well as serve as a referral service for information and education to help women avail themselves of existing resources to meet their needs. Additionally, the commission would make and implement recommendations on the opportunities, needs, problems, and contributions of women in the areas of education, homemaking, civil and legal rights, and labor and employment.

Alaska, with its unique culture, history, and challenges combined with its large size and small population, calls for innovative forward thinking to deal with many of the difficult issues facing Alaskan women and their families. The creation of a Commission on the Status of Women will once again focus the attention of Alaskans on these critical issues.

9:07:13 AM

ARLISS STURGULEWSKI, Former Alaska State Senator, Anchorage, said she is affiliated with many groups. She was a senator in the 1980s when the commission was very active, and she was sad to see its demise. It is critical that it be reestablished. This is an important time. Research is needed in domestic violence, single head of household families, shelter, the increasing and shameful dropout rates, the need for quality foster care, and the need for referral services to assist women in gaining information and education. The non-profit YWCA worked with the University of Alaska Anchorage to provide scholarships for 10 women who were the single heads of household. It was a major cooperative effort and showed what can be done when people work together. The commission is needed to help women, children, and families. It is a crime that the commission disintegrated.

9:10:24 AM

CHAIR MENARD thanked Ms. Sturgulewski for her endless hard work.

CAREN ROBINSON, Lobbyist, Alaska Women's Lobby, Juneau, said the women's lobby is a statewide steering committee in Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Juneau. Its mission is to defend and advance the rights and the needs of women, children, and families in Alaska. The lobby fully supports re-establishing the women's commission. It is Alaska's 50-year anniversary, and re-

establishing the commission is a wise investment that can move us forward in the next 50 years. Women have made significant economic, political, and social advances, but women are far from enjoying gender equity. Women earn less than men, are seriously underrepresented in political offices, and make up a disproportionate share of people in poverty. Even in areas that have seen significant advances in women's status, rates of progress are very slow. At the rate of progress of the past 10 years, women will not meet wage parity for more than 50 years. If women representation in Congress changes at the rate it did in the 1990s, it will take more than a century to achieve equity in political representation. To make significant progress, policy researchers and advocates need reliable data about women.

9:13:01 AM

MS. ROBINSON said the first Alaska Women's Commission initiated a series of reports on the status of women in Alaska. It was one of the most valuable things it did in advancing the rights of women. The work of the commission addressed domestic violence, welfare reform, and other issues. The reports are needed today to inform citizens about the progress of women in Alaska related to women in other states, to men, and to the whole nation. The commission can analyze and disseminate information, provide baseline measures, and most importantly, identify measures and solutions to equality barriers. "We've come a long way." Women in Alaska and the U.S. have seen important changes in their lives and their access to political, economic, and social rights. There is still more to do. Alaska women could benefit from stronger enforcement of equal opportunity laws, better political representation, adequate and affordable childcare, stronger poverty reduction programs, and other policies. A women's commission would provide the focus and direction to achieve these goals. She noted her collection of historical booklets from the commission. Joan Katz wrote the first status report. Later work was done by the last commissioner and director Ruth Lister. She understood women's problems. She wrote a report about young women dropping out of school, and her recommendations likely have not been followed.

9:15:45 AM

MS. ROBINSON said she also wrote about teen pregnancy and how to educate young men. The Women's Legal Rights Handbook was used the most, and it needs to be updated.

9:16:26 AM

HATTIE GARDNER, President, Alaska Federation of Business and Professional Women, Anchorage, said the federation was founded

in 1919 and chartered in Alaska in 1945. There are three local chapters in Alaska. The national federation concentrates on fair pay and getting veteran women back into work. It works with AARP on divided-we-fall health issues and the American Heart Association on reporting heart health. The local federation concentrates on scholarships for young women and sometimes men, global warming, individual development for women, and training for young women and women who head the household. Reestablishing this commission is important to the federation. The statistics will be used to plan programs to supply information to the national group. The group wants a place to draw statistics from for things like domestic violence and children in need.

9:19:02 AM

ANNABELLE STEVENS, Member, Federation of Business and Professional Women, Anchorage, said she has been coming to Juneau for over 35 years on different issues, but reestablishing the women's commission is one of the most important. It is "vital to the civil rights, the labor, the employment, equal pay of women, and I hesitate to say homemaking because 100 years ago women were homemakers." Now they are bread winners, and it is important to show how much women do. "Behind every successful man is a woman that has given him a hand up."

9:20:22 AM

RAMONA DUBY, Member, Federation of Business and Professional Women, Anchorage, said she supports the re-establishment of the women's commission and she echoes every comment made by Ms. Sturgulewski. She got involved in public policy at the women's commission in the 1980s. It assisted her with a legal issue against a state nonprofit. She wants more meat in the commission and have it report to the legislature or governor. It is one thing to get this vitally needed information, but she would like to see the information put to use.

9:22:13 AM

JANE ANGVIK, Member, Alaska Girl Scouts, Alaska Women's Political Caucus, Anchorage, said she has been involved in women's issues for many years. She supports SB 69 because it will do research to assist women in economic situations. Alaska women are underpaid relative to men. It is important to focus on women's capacity to be able to support themselves and their families, and the women's commission can do research and make recommendations on that. The previous commission developed a body of research that informed citizens and legislators.

9:23:54 AM

BRITTANY GOODNIGHT, Member, Alaska Women's Political Caucus board, Anchorage, said she is a young professional, and she is in Juneau for the Women's Summit. She was born and raised in Chugiak. As a young woman, she is shocked that this commission doesn't exist. It could guide the legislature and governor in the advancement for women in all kinds of realms. It is important to the state, her future, and her children's future.

LATANYA SEMONES, Fairbanks, said she is in Juneau for the Women's Summit, and she echoes what everyone has said. She is a young Native woman. Re-establishing the commission would offer a huge opportunity for her aunts, sisters, brothers, grandmothers, and all her family in rural Alaska.

KATHERINE FOREST, Anchorage, said she was born and raised in Anchorage and is from a big Hispanic family. She agrees with all the previous testimony.

9:26:17 AM

CLOVER SIMON, Alaska Vice President, Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest, Anchorage, said her organization serves women and children and employs mostly women. Her staff are often single mothers. "Having the information out there to legislators about the importance of bringing women up, I think is paramount to the future of our state." Improving the lives of women improves the lives of everyone in the community, especially children. She wants the bill to move forward.

9:27:27 AM

SENATOR MEYER said a witness said that the commission should be implemented by the governor or legislator. Page 4 has the commission preparing a report and will provide the governor with copies of the report. He asked that the legislature be included.

SENATOR DAVIS said the last commission reported directly to the governor. It can report to the legislature, but the closer to the legislature and the governor the better. She will consider any recommendation that makes the bill stronger.

SENATOR MEYER said it is fine for the report to go to the governor, as long as the legislature is kept informed.

SENATOR DAVIS said that can be addressed in the bill if the committee wants.

SENATOR MEYER said a simple amendment can do that.

9:29:21 AM

CHAIR MENARD noted the fiscal note of \$505,000.

SENATOR DAVIS said that is what came back to her, and it establishes the same positions from the old commission, including executive director and staff. The human relations commission was never funded. The commission went away in 1993.

CHAIR MENARD asked if other states have similar commissions.

SENATOR DAVIS said all other states have them in various forms.

SENATOR FRENCH said Senator Meyer made a good suggestion, so he moved Amendment 1, as follows: Page 4, line 5, after "governor" insert "and the legislature", and strike all of the words on line 6. Hearing no objection, Amendment 1 was adopted.

SENATOR FRENCH moved to report SB 69, as amended, from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s). There being no objection, CSSB 69 (STA) passed out of committee.

SB 78-LEGISLATIVE AUDIT DIVISION POWERS

9:34:10 AM

CHAIR MENARD announced the consideration of SB 78.

SENATOR FRENCH moved to adopt the committee substitute (CS) to SB 78, labeled 26-LS0194\S, as a working document. Hearing no objection, version S was before the committee.

9:35:16 AM

SENATOR FRED DYSON, Alaska State Legislature, said he is the prime sponsor of SB 78. He said Senator French has done some good work, but he would like to suggest minor changes in the CS. He can put them all together next week or in the next committee.

CHAIR MENARD said she would like to move the bill.

SENATOR MEYER asked if the auditor supports the changes.

PAT DAVIDSON, Auditor, Division of Legislative Audit, Juneau, said the last clause in the new section 11 limits the audit to only the financial records of an organization. It will constrain legislators to only ask for financial audits. They won't be able to ask for performance-oriented audits. For example, the state runs a training program through the Department of Labor and gives money to various organizations. If the legislature wanted

to know how successful those programs were, the auditors would not be able to measure that by looking at financial records. "To get the broadest type of information to the legislature, you may want to consider taking that portion out." That would give auditors access to records that were generated through the use of state money or federal money flowing through the state and perform a wider breadth of audits.

9:37:59 AM

SENATOR MEYER said he agrees. He asked about "may" instead of "shall" on number 11.

MS. DAVIDSON said she is not sure. "It's the second time the word 'may' has shown up." She hasn't spoken to the drafter on why it is there. Is it giving the authority to her to say no to a committee audit request?

SENATOR FRENCH suggested dropping the second clause in subsection 11. He moved Amendment 1 as follows: Page 2, line 27, after the word "committee", add a period and strike the rest. Hearing no objection, Amendment 1 passed.

9:39:36 AM

SENATOR MEYER moved to report the CS to SB 78 labeled, 26-LS0194\S, as amended, from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s). There being no objection, CSSB 78(STA) moved out of committee.

9:40:39 AM

The committee took a brief at-ease.

HB 63-COUNCIL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: MEMBERS, STAFF

9:42:55 AM

CHAIR MENARD announced the consideration of CSHB 63(FIN).

REPRESENTATIVE ANNA FAIRCLOUGH, Alaska State Legislature, sponsor of HB 63, said several issues were raised at the last committee meeting regarding taking personnel from an exempt status to a nonexempt status with union representation. Representative Fairclough didn't know if the change in health insurance would require duplicate deductibles and she didn't know if they would lose money, but she was told that there would be a pay reduction by moving to the nonexempt status. There were a variety of other issues. She has been assured by the administration that all of the issues have been taken care of through an amendment.

9:44:27 AM

REPRESENTATIVE FAIRCLOUGH said if this amendment is adopted, the pay of the six staff would stay the same as they cross over into the classified position. It would happen immediately on the effective date, which will be simultaneous with when health care coverage changes, so there is no issue of past deductibles or a pre-exemption problem.

SENATOR MEYER moved Amendment 1, labeled: 26-LS0138\T.1, as follows:

Page 2, lines 29 - 30:

Delete "is [AND STAFF ARE] in the exempt service under AS 39.25.110 and staff members are in the classified service under AS 39.25.100"

Insert "and staff are in the exempt service under AS 39.25.110"

Page 4, lines 11 - 13:

Delete all material.

Renumber the following bill section accordingly.

Hearing no objection, Amendment 1 was adopted.

9:45:39 AM

FATE PUTMAN, Assistant Business Manager, Alaska State Employees Association (ASEA), Juneau, said his union will represent these employees once they return to classified service. The union is not the health insurer; the health trust is a stand-alone entity. He was told that as employees move from select benefits to the health trust, they will receive a COBRA notice and a certificate of credible coverage. The certificate will eliminate the waiting period for a pre-existing condition. They will immediately get health coverage without any loss of deductibles or co-pay, since they will transfer on July 1, which is the end of the plan year. ASEA has no objection to moving employees from exempt status to classified status. It has no objection to not using the recruitment process in this one case.

SENATOR FRENCH said the certificate is very important. It covers pre-existing conditions. It is a great solution.

CHAIR MENARD said the sponsor has worked hard on this.

9:48:08 AM

CHRIS ASHENBRENNER, Executive Director, Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Juneau, said the council strongly supports this bill. It will strengthen the council. "The addition of corrections, the addition of a rural public member, the extension of terms they serve will make it stronger and enhance their ability to fight these crimes." She is grateful to the sponsor. This is a group of dedicated hardworking staff, and this gives them some protection.

9:49:13 AM

The committee took a brief at-ease.

SENATOR FRENCH moved to report CSHB 63(FIN), as amended, from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s). There being no objection, SCS CSHB 63(STA) moved out of committee.

9:50:29 AM

CHAIR MENARD adjourned the Senate State Affairs meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Bill History/Action for 26 Legislature**BILL:** SB 69**SHORT TITLE:** COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**BILL VERSION:****CURRENT STATUS:** (S) FIN**STATUS DATE:** 03/20/09**SPONSOR(s):** SENATOR(S) DAVIS, Ellis

TITLE: "An Act reestablishing the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women; and relating to the purpose and powers of the Alaska Human Relations Commission."

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Jrn-Date	Jrn-Page	Action
01/21/09	0043	(S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/21/09	0043	(S) STA, FIN
03/17/09	Text	(S) STA AT 9:00 AM BELTZ 211
03/17/09	Text	(S) Bill Postponed To 3/19/09
03/19/09	Text	(S) STA AT 9:00 AM BELTZ 211
03/19/09	Text	(S) Moved CSSB 69(STA) Out of Committee
03/19/09	Text	(S) MINUTE(STA)
03/20/09	0594	(S) STA RPT CS 4DP SAME TITLE
03/20/09	0594	(S) DP: MENARD, FRENCH, MEYER, PASKVAN
03/20/09	0594	(S) FN1: (GOV)
03/20/09	0594	(S) REFERRED TO FINANCE

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