

**From:** [Rep. Zack Fields](#)  
**To:** [Tristan Walsh](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HB 128 & SB 77  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 8:17:02 AM

---

Tristan Walsh, Staff for Representative Fields

Session Phone: (907) 465-6591  
Alaska State House of Representatives

Alaska State Capitol Rm 24  
Juneau Alaska 99801

---

**From:** Gregory Johnson <greg@johnsonak.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 8:35 PM  
**To:** Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 128 & SB 77

**Representative Fields and Senator Costello,**

I am sending you this email to thank you for your introduction of **HB 128 & SB 77**.

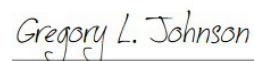
Our organization, Alaska Girls' and Women's Hockey, Inc., has supported the sport of hockey since its inception many years ago. The funds made available through charitable has certainly helped with our efforts.

Obviously, significant concern for our organization is the impact the loss of charitable gaming proceeds would have on a variety of youth and girls' programs.

It is our belief, even after the Covid-19 pandemic is under control, online gaming should continue. In that light, we also feel it would be helpful to avoid the natural tendency to "overregulate" online gaming activities. There are several provisions in these bills that seem to head in that direction, and such seem to place an excessive burden on gaming operations overall.

All the best with moving these bills forward. And again, thank you both for your continued support of Alaska's non-profits.

Respectfully,



Gregory L. Johnson, President  
Alaska Girls' and Women's Hockey, Inc.



March 22, 2021

Representative Ivy Spohnholz  
State Capitol Room 406  
Juneau AK, 99801

Transmitted via email: [Representative.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov)

Dear Representative Spohnholz,

The Association of Fundraising Professionals Alaska Chapter board of directors represents 110 members: development professionals at nonprofits throughout Alaska.

Our board has voted this statement of support and urges the passage of HB 128.

Regulations enabling charitable gaming activities online strengthened our members' ability to generate revenue during the pandemic. Notably, our members pointed out the following benefits:

1. The process was less prone to transcription errors.
2. There was an electronic record of all transactions.
3. Receiving donor information in digital format improved data processing efficiency.
4. The process allowed the ability to invite a larger audience to participate.

Allowing charitable gaming activities to be conducted online permanently will improve the charitable sector's unrestricted funding, the most crucial type of funding for daily operations. With other fundraising methods and sustained relationship development, HB 128 will help nonprofits recover from current economic challenges, continue the service of their missions throughout Alaska, and collectively strengthen our state.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Libby, MBA, CFRE, Past President  
Association of Fundraising Professionals Alaska Chapter  
Director of Operations, Providence Alaska Foundation



Signed on behalf of the Association of Fundraising Professionals Alaska Chapter, Board of Directors:

Dr. Sandra Ehrlich-Mathiesen, CFRE, President  
Professor, University of Alaska Anchorage

Melissa Webber, CFRE, President Elect  
Annual Giving Manager, Campfire Alaska

Chris Dean, Treasurer  
Donor & Alumni Relations, Alaska Pacific  
University

KaLynn Coffey, Secretary  
Development Officer, University of Alaska  
Anchorage

Becky More, CFRE, VP External Affairs  
Consultant

Peter Host, VP Membership  
Development Manager, Alaska Public Media

Sara Schultz, VP Education - NPD  
Philanthropy Officer, Providence Alaska  
Foundation

Julia Martinez, CFRE, VP Education  
Development Officer, University of Alaska  
Anchorage

Nancy Anderson, Program Chair  
Development Director, Alaska SeaLife Center

Jenny Di Grappa, NPD Chair  
Director of Development, Food Bank of Alaska

Lynne Johnson, CFRE, Government Affairs Chair  
Director of Development, University of Alaska  
Southeast

Mariko Sarafin, IDEA Co-Chair  
Community Officer, Alaska Community  
Foundation

Jamie Newsom Eaton, CFRE, IDEA Co-Chair  
Development Officer, Anchorage School District

Jennifer Brown, At Large  
Development Manager, STAR

Denise Brown-Chythlook, Scholarship Chair  
Executive Director, Anchorage Youth Symphony

Laura Gutierrez, Communications Chair  
Fundraising Manager, Habitat for Humanity

Tammy Tragis-McCook, CFRE, Engagement Chair  
Director of Development, University of Alaska  
Fairbanks

Roxanne Benson, At Large  
Development Officer, Healthy Alaska Natives  
Foundation



**Working Hard  
for ALASKA**

**JORDAN ADAMS**

Business Manager/  
Secretary-Treasurer

**TODD PEPLow**

President

**HEADQUARTERS**

2510 Arctic Blvd.  
Anchorage, Alaska  
99503 FAX (907)  
279-7171  
(907) 276-7211

2122 Airport Way  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
99701 FAX (907)  
456-1771  
(907) 452-5024

722 West 9th Street  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
FAX (907) 586-5757  
(907) 586-6993



Dear Legislators:

**Please support and pass HB-128 / SB-77: USE OF INTERNET FOR CHARITABLE GAMING with amendments to remove language related to guarantees of age and location.**

I am the Business Manager for the Public Employees Local 71 Laborers Union. That title means that I oversee the day-to-day operations of our union. In 2019 we established the Denis J. Moen Scholarship and Welfare Fund to assist our members and their families with tragedies, training, and higher education. We provide scholarships to members and their immediate family members, including grandchild dependents for certifications, training, college, and post-graduate work. We also assist members experiencing disasters like home fires and floods. This year these funds were vital to supporting our grieving and displaced members after the mudslides in Southeast AK. We use our charitable gaming permit, and revenues from our contracted operator to fund this account.

As you know, the pandemic response greatly curtailed the ability to sell the products that generate these funds. Luckily, the state's disaster declaration included removal of the prohibition of online sales for charitable gaming. This change was long overdue.

Making this feature permanent benefits all recipients of non-profit services in Alaska. Disaster relief, veterans, youth-sports, foster care, scholarships, and capital projects all benefit from charitable gaming. The State has long recognized the work our charities do to provide services the state budget cannot afford. It was with this in mind that the Charitable Gaming Act was designed, and it is time for this act to catch up with the times.

We have demonstrated that this program works. We have proven that we can be accountable to the Department of Revenue, and we argue now, that it may be the only way some of us will survive to continue to do our good work.

The current version of the bill placed an undue and unnecessary burden on us to verify age and location of purchasers and restricts sales to anyone outside Alaska. We urge you to remove these references for the success of the program. **Additionally, striking the requirement that winners be drawn "by lot" would allow for greater flexibility.** "By lot" requires the printing of physical tickets, which must be drawn from a barrel, when other options just as viable. Currently the ADF&G chooses hunt drawing winners using a computer.

The revenue brought in by charitable gaming supports the state budget directly through fees and the relief to the budget brought by Alaska's charities which provide direct services to communities.

Thank you for the work you do, and for your recognition of the good works of our Alaska non-profits. Please pass this legislation with the amendments we have recommended.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Adams".

Jordan A. Adams  
Business Manager Secretary / Treasurer  
Health Trust Chair

**From:** [Rep. Zack Fields](#)  
**To:** [Tristan Walsh](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HB 128  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 7:49:16 PM

---

---

**From:** Randy Zarnke <itrap2@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 6:41 PM  
**To:** Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** Rep. Bart LeBon <Rep.Bart.Lebon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Cronk <Rep.Mike.Cronk@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Prax <Rep.Mike.Prax@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 128

Thank you for sponsoring this bill which will to allow on-line charitable gaming by operators and permittees to continue after the pandemic allowances have expired.

I serve as president for the Alaska Trappers Association and the Fairbanks Hockey Hall of Fame. Both organizations benefit from the State's charitable gaming system. We would be hard-pressed to make ends meet without this income stream. We encourage passage of HB 128.

Amendments have been proposed by the gaming industry which would remove the need to verify age and location for ticket purchasers. We support these amendments.

March 22, 2021

The Honorable Representative Zack Fields  
State Capital Room 24  
Juneau AK 99801

The Boys & Girls Club of the Kenai Peninsula has been a long-time gaming permit holder. As a permit holder, we have operated for many years to raise funds to support our organization's mission. These funds have been an essential part of our ability to serve youth and create a positive place for our kids.

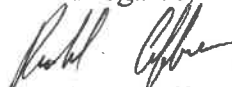
During COVID, there was a temporary allowance for organizations, such as ours, to offer raffle tickets electronically. This allowed us to continue our fundraising efforts safely while also generating a funding source for our youth programming. We were not able to offer a safe-in-person fundraiser. The ability to sell these tickets electronically helped generate funds to continue our efforts in supporting youth needs. Without the ability to sell tickets virtually, we would not have raised tens of thousands of dollars to support our children.

It has come to my attention that there is a bill (HB 128) to modify the regulations related to gaming activity. This bill will change the wording of AS 05.15.060(a) to allow permittees to engage in virtual ticket sales. I believe this modification will be a great benefit to not-for-profit entities throughout the State. A majority of organizations have the existing capability to meet basic verification and security requirements and will benefit significantly from selling their tickets online.

I am respectfully requesting that you consider this bill and its benefit to the not-for-profit entities throughout the State of Alaska. It will be beneficial to all entities that sell raffle tickets to support their efforts as a not-for-profit.

I appreciate your consideration in the matter and thank you for your time.

Kind regards,



Rachel Chaffee

Chief Executive Officer

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Kenai Peninsula



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF THE KENAI PENINSULA**

**Programs Office**  
705 Frontage Road Suite B  
Kenai, Alaska 99611  
907.283.2682  
907.283.8190 Fax  
www.bgckp.com

**Club Locations**

Kasilof  
Kenai  
Kenai Teen Center  
Nikiski  
Nikiski Jr. /Sr. High  
Seward  
Soldotna

**Board of Directors**

Jeff Dolifka, President  
Tim Redder, Vice President  
Kyle Kornelis, Treasurer  
Chris Hough, Past President  
Mike Navarre  
Sen. Peter Micciche  
Kaarlo Wik  
Erika Kemp  
Ryan Tunseth  
Craig Wortham

**Honorary Board of Trustees**

Rep, Mike Chenault

**Executive Director**

Rachel Chaffee

**Cornerstone Sponsors**



**SOLDOTNA**  
City of Soldotna, Alaska



**Champion of Youth**



**Ambassador of Youth**



**GREAT FUTURES START HERE.**

**From:** [Jinnel Choiniere](#)  
**To:** [Tristan Walsh](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Bill and background for making online charitable gaming permanent  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 17, 2021 7:11:57 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

---

Hi Tristan,

Thank you for reaching out about this issue. It is important to the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce.



We will not be able to participate in the Finance Committee meeting tomorrow. However, I can share some information in case it is helpful in your efforts on this issue. The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce is a membership-driven non-profit organization. Like so many non-profits, we raise funds to support our community programs through gaming activities (in our case, we support our Golden Days community festival through selling tickets to our famous Rubber Duckie Race).

Last year, with in-person ticket sale opportunities severely limited by the pandemic, the ability to sell tickets online enabled us to support a COVID-friendly community event at a time when Alaskans really needed it. Nearly 40% of our Rubber Duckie Race ticket sales in 2020 were online.

In 2021, our in-person ticket selling opportunities are still significantly curtailed by the lack or scaled-down size of community events, but we still need to raise funds to produce our events. The ability to sell these tickets online again, with appropriate safeguards to uphold the intent and integrity of our gaming laws, would be a true benefit to our organization and many other non-profits in the Fairbanks area.

Thank you for your work on this issue! Please let me know if there is any further detail I can provide.

Jinnel Choiniere

JINNEL CHOINIERE  
PRESIDENT & CEO  
GREATER FAIRBANKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
100 Cushman Street, Suite 102 | Fairbanks, AK 99701  
direct: 907.374.6702 | main: 907.452.1105  
[www.fairbankschamber.org](http://www.fairbankschamber.org) | [jinnel@fairbankschamber.org](mailto:jinnel@fairbankschamber.org)  
connect with us!  

---

**From:** Tristan Walsh <[Tristan.Walsh@akleg.gov](mailto:Tristan.Walsh@akleg.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 17, 2021 12:07 PM

**To:** Katie Yarrow <[Katie@fairbankschamber.org](mailto:Katie@fairbankschamber.org)>

**Subject:** FW: Bill and background for making online charitable gaming permanent

Good morning Katie,

Attached is our bill and sponsor statement for making online raffle sales and other charitable gaming changes permanent.

Basically, the bill takes regulations and rules the Department of Revenue put in place during 2020 and makes them permanent. It will allow those operating a charitable game or classic defined under AS 05.15.690 to conduct the event/activity online, including electronic ticket sales and drawing/announcing the winner.

We'd welcome your support in a letter or email; please feel free to give a call if you have any questions. The House Finance hearing is tomorrow at 1:30; we'd love to have Fairbanks on list of invited testimony if possible.

best,

-tristan

Tristan Walsh, Staff for Representative Fields

Session Phone: (907) 465-6591

Alaska State House of Representatives

Alaska State Capitol Rm 24

Juneau Alaska 99801





## 2020-2021 Board Members

Bill Eckhardt, *Chair*  
Retired President, AK USA FCU

Jim Brady, *Vice Chair*  
President, Brady Investments, LLC

Reuben Hanke, *Vice Chair*  
Owner, Harry Gaines Kenai River Fishing

Kevin Branson, *Secretary/Treasurer*  
CPA, Thomas, Head & Greisen

Kristin Mellinger, *Vice President*  
Owner, V3 Strategic Solutions, LLC

Ross Baxter  
Ross Baxter Group, Jack White Realty

Randall Buckendorf  
Managing Counsel BP Alaska

Rik Bucy  
Retired, Tesoro Northstores

Joe Connors  
Owner, Big Sky Charter & Fish Camp

Laura Edmondson  
CFO, Bering Straits Native Corp.

Dick Erkeneff  
Owner, Kenai River Raven

Ed Fogels  
Retired, AK Dept. of Natural Resources

Linda Leary  
Owner, Fishewear

Derek Lechlitter  
Owner, Legacy Electric

Bill MacKay  
Retired, Senior VP, Alaska Airlines

Verne Martell  
Retired, Alaska Pasta Company

Eldon Mulder  
President, The Mulder Company

## KRSA Emeritus

Bob Penney  
Founder and Chairman Emeritus

March 24, 2021

Representative Kelly Merrick  
Chair, House Finance Committee

Representative Neal Foster  
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee

For electronic delivery

Dear Representatives Merrick and Foster,

The Kenai River Sportfishing Association (KRSA) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit fishery-conservation organization that works to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of fishery resources in the Kenai River, Cook Inlet and elsewhere in Alaska, through advocacy of sport and personal use fisheries and the promotion of science-based fishery management and conservation.

We are writing today to express our support for House Bill 128, Use of Internet for Charitable Gaming.

Like many Alaska non-profit organizations, KRSA utilized revenues from gaming (e.g., raffles) to support the work we do in Alaska. While KRSA's focus is on conservation and science-based management of Alaska's public trust fisheries resources, non-profits across our state provide benefits to many aspects of the daily lives of our residents and our environment.

KRSA is grateful for the revised guidance from the Department of Revenue which allowed us to conduct charitable gaming activities online under the Governor's emergency declarations. We took advantage of this guidance in an effort to mitigate the financial impacts of cancelling our traditional in-person fundraising activities, including the Kenai River Classic. Our first statewide raffle was operated by selling tickets online and in person from October through December of 2020. While we made every effort to sell tickets in-person, 54% of our total ticket sales were conducted online.

The success of KRSA's online raffle in 2020 proved to us that online sales represent a viable avenue for fundraising. Unfortunately, without the modernization efforts proposed in HB 128, Alaska non-profit organizations will be held back by an inability to access markets provided by modern e-commerce techniques. These limits hinder our ability to conduct activities which support the important work of our varied organizations.

KRSA supports HB128 and recommends consideration of the following changes:

- Eliminate the following requirements:
  - That a purchaser to be physically present in Alaska when purchasing a ticket;
  - That the raffle licensee verify the age and location of a purchaser.
- Replace these requirements with the following:
  - That the ticket purchaser confirm they are of a legal age to purchase a ticket;
  - That the ticket purchaser confirm they are in a location where the purchase of a raffle ticket is not prohibited.

Kenai River Sportfishing Association  
35093 Kenai Spur Highway, Soldotna, AK 99669  
Office: 907.262.8588 | Fax: 907.262.8582 | 501 (c) (3) Tax ID 92-0142688



- Finally, clarify that any raffle which is governed by this bill occur in Alaska, and that the winner is determined within Alaska.

We appreciate your consideration of this matter, and look forward to committee action which may help move this important bill forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben Mohr", written in a cursive style.

Ben Mohr  
Executive Director