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SPONSOR STATEMENT
HB 57

“An Act relating to expanding the period in a day during which an employed child under 16 years of age may perform work in the summer; and providing for an effective date.”

In Fairbanks, where the sun never sets in the summer, you can go by the soccer fields watching all ages enjoy the sport. Fairbanks Youth Soccer Association adjusted their entire program structure to ensure that games would be finished by 9:00 pm and thus no young employees, a 14 or 15-year-old, would be scheduled beyond that point. However, after continued growth, it has become nearly impossible to complete all the league games that are played in one central location.

House Bill 57 would extend the time of day from 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm that youth 14 or 15 years of age can perform work, from June 1st until the first Monday in September, if they are not enrolled in a school term. This expansion of time does not alter the number of hours in a day or week the youth can work, it simply allows them to work until 10:00 pm during the summer.

This bill would only go into effect once the commissioner of labor and workforce development has obtained a waiver from compliance with the requirement under 29 C.F.R. 570.35(a) from the United States Secretary of Labor.

This bill would not only benefit the referees but allow more children to participate not just in soccer but many other sports. I ask for your support of HB 57.