

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
January 16, 2001  
1:39 PM

TAPE HFC 01 - 9, Side A  
TAPE HFC 01 - 9, Side B  
TAPE HFC 01 - 10, Side A  
TAPE HFC 01 - 10, Side B

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Mulder called the House Finance Committee meeting to order at 1:39 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Bill Williams, Co-Chair  
Representative Con Bunde, Vice-Chair  
Representative Eric Croft  
Representative Eldon Mulder, Co-Chair  
Representative Bill Williams, Co-Chair  
Representative Con Bunde, Vice-Chair  
Representative Eric Croft  
Representative John Davies  
Representative Carl Moses  
Representative Richard Foster  
Representative John Harris  
Representative Bill Hudson  
Representative Ken Lancaster  
Representative Jim Whitaker

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ALSO PRESENT

Representative Gretchen Guess; Glenn Godfrey, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety; Gary Powell, Director State Fire Marshal, Central Office, Division of Fire Prevention, Department of Public Safety; Randy Crawford, Major, Deputy Director, Division of Alaska State Troopers, Department of Public Safety; Joel Hard, Col., Director, Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection, Department of Public Safety; Trisha Gentle, Executive Director, Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Department of Public Safety; Kenneth Bischoff, Director, Division of Administrative Services, Department of Public Safety; Kevin Brooks, Director, Division of Administrative Services, Department of Fish and Game.

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

None

GENERAL SUBJECT(S):

Review of Departments Accomplishments:

Department of Public Safety  
Department of Fish and Game

The following overview was taken in log note format. Tapes and handouts will be on file with the House Finance Committee through the 22nd Legislative Session, contact 465-2156. After the 22nd Legislative Session they will be available through the Legislative Library at 465-3808.

LOG	SPEAKER	DISCUSSION
	<b>TAPE HFC 00 - 9 SIDE A</b>	
000	Co-Chair Mulder	Convened the Committee meeting.
		<b>Department of Public Safety</b>
106	GLENN GODFREY, COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	Stated that the mission of the Department was to ensure public safety and enforce fish and wildlife laws. He introduced members of the Department who were with him.
183	Commissioner Godfrey	Discussed contribution of the Department and the key issues confronting the Department.
253	Commissioner Godfrey	Statewide contributions - Division of Fire Prevention. Significant contribution in protecting the natural resources. Downward trend in fire brutalities. In 2000, there was a marked increase in arson fires.
385	Commissioner Godfrey	Identified the Division's measures of success such as addressing the bootlegging and alcohol problems throughout the State. Many products were seized. He added that sexual offender information is now available on the internet.
537	Commissioner Godfrey	Spoke to the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection.
566	Commissioner Godfrey	Identified sport fishing violations and hunter contacts made by the Division.
624	Commissioner Godfrey	Testified on the commercial crime violations and the successful prosecutions. He commented on commercial fishing enforcement. This was the first year that a permit holder was not allowed to fish in Bristol Bay because of cited violations.

722	Commissioner Godfrey	Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA). He pointed out that there has been an increase in rural outreach to village areas and new resources to victims.
758	Commissioner Godfrey	Alaska Police Standards Council and the training associated with that program.
792	Commissioner Godfrey	Administrative Services and the Western Identification Network, which was approved by the Legislature several years ago, has enhanced the work of that Division.
835	Commissioner Godfrey	Looking forward to continual improvement.
851	Commissioner Godfrey	Key issues - He emphasized that the need for trooper services continues to increase statewide, especially in the rural areas. Also, he mentioned the gas line construction and the crime rates which generally go along with such an enterprise.
895	Commissioner Godfrey	Admitted that there has been a major public outcry over drunken driving crimes committed throughout the State.
946	Commissioner Godfrey	Bootlegging importation crimes. Amphetamine labs are also a problem. The Department is desperately trying to respond to these needs throughout the State.
987	Commissioner Godfrey	Emphasized that patrolling the Alaska coastline with only 96 troopers is close to impossible. He noted that fish and wild life protection has operations in some of the most remote areas. He recommended building upon the safety of the enforcement aircraft.
1039	Commissioner Godfrey	Addressed domestic violence in the State.
1050	Commissioner Godfrey	Spoke to the Alaska Police Safety Academy (APSA).
1079	Commissioner Godfrey	Added work done in the Administrative Services and the child safety act, which will screen persons associated with crimes related to these areas.
1109	Commissioner Godfrey	Voiced notice to the fire prevention concerns. Spoke of the fire codes.
1133	Commissioner Godfrey	Noted population growth with decreased trooper funding.
1146	Commissioner Godfrey	Proceeded to address the 26 measures listed in the bill and the handout.
1168	Commissioner Godfrey	Referenced the handout. [Copy on File].
1187	Commissioner Godfrey	Sec 117 - Office of the Commissioner. 78% successful completion of the 26 measures.

1225	Commissioner Godfrey	Sec 118 - The costs of the Administrative Services as compared to the total personnel costs for the Department.
1257	Commissioner Godfrey	Sec 119 - Division of Fire Prevention
1277	Co-Chair Mulder	Asked about the number of grievances.
1287	Commissioner Godfrey	Explained that because of the grievances, the Department has placed additional resources into that area. He believed that action could have increased the grievances. Before, the Division did not have the resources to respond, whereas, now they are more capable and has resulted in more of a formal process.
1350	Representative Lancaster	Asked if there had been a cost increase or labor shortage.
1363	Commissioner Godfrey	Believed that there was.
1370	Co-Chair Mulder	Questioned the direct cost to the State when a grievance is lost.
1385	Commissioner Godfrey	Did not know the exact costs. He stressed that these are not major grievances but rather differences. He pointed out that was a small number compared with those of PSCA. Many disputes are settled informally. He believed that this was not a trend, however part of a cycle of "peaks and valleys".
1450	Co-Chair Mulder	Recommended that the Subcommittee look at these numbers. He believed that these numbers represented a frustration with the Administration.
1480	Commissioner Godfrey	Sec 119 - Division of Fire Prevention. Listed the percentage of buildings found in compliance with legal standards. Number of fire prevention educational contacts made by the Division. Average time required conducting initial building plan review. Listed the number of priority occupancies inspected.
1573	Representative Davies	Asked about the goal of the inspections and compliance expectation.
1605	GARY POWELL, DIRECTOR STATE FIRE MARSHAL, CENTRAL OFFICE, DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	Pointed out that number represents the number of inspected areas that are still in violation. The goal is that after a few inspections, 30% would be able to meet fire safety standards. He added that it was a measurement of how many were found.
1717	Co-Chair Mulder	Inquired if it was because of short staffing.
1727	Mr. Powell	Agreed. He noted that all codes had been enforced. He acknowledged that it would be difficult to obtain a code of

		compliance of more than 30%. After discussing this issue with other states, 30% is understood to be a lofty goal. Priority buildings are inspected every two years.
1782	Vice-Chair Bunde	Pointed out the chain of violations. He asked if there would be value in sorting out the serious life safety standards.
1808	Mr. Powell	Agreed that it would be good to have a formula for such a service. He offered to look into that option trying not to generate a lot more paper work.
1901	Representative Lancaster	Asked if these were all existing buildings.
1913	Mr. Powell	Replied that they are all existing buildings.
1922	Representative Foster	Referenced the 4% number and how that number would relate to his district. He criticized the waivers for buildings that are not up to code.
1960	Mr. Powell	Explained that the codes take into consideration the year in which the building was built. The fire code do provide a good value in keeping the building safe from fire no matter what the year it was built. There are legal code requirements.
1996	Representative Foster	Asked about the Smokey the Bear and the Safety Bear programs.
2212	Mr. Powell	Replied that the Department tries to partner with other private organizations to implement the programs. He agreed that these are important programs.
2034	Vice-Chair Bunde	Questioned the higher than normal staff turnover.
2048	Mr. Powell	Noted that there had been a 100% turnover in the past two months in his office of four personnel. Other offices, are experiencing a similar turnover, just not at 100%. He noted that the training commitment is 18 months.
2109	Representative Hudson	Asked if there exists cross training through the Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO) program.
2125	Mr. Powell	Replied there was in the Fire Training.
2134	Representative Hudson	Questioned if they were qualified to do some of the inspections.
2143	Mr. Powell	Replied that the Department encourages them to make recommendations.
2152	Commissioner Godfrey	Sec 120 - Division of Alaska State Troopers. Listed the number of homicides per capita per year; Number of rapes per

		capita per year; Number of burglaries per capita per year.
2234	Commissioner Godfrey	Stated that the numbers for the Division of AK State Troopers had to do with the areas of primary law enforcement responsibility.
2260	RANDY CRAWFORD, MAJOR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF ALASKA STATE TROOPERS, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	Measurements are per capita per 100,000 people, whereas, other crimes are different.
	<b>TAPE HFC 01 - 9, Side B</b>	<b>Department of Public Safety</b> (continued)
083	Representative Croft	Voiced concern over the statistics.
105	Representative Whitaker	Encouraged members to put the numbers in perspective from the handout. He inquired the total number of rapes for the last year.
233	Major Crawford	Replied there were 289 rapes for the population served by the Division.
312	Major Crawford	Addressed the Alaska State Trooper (AST) measures from prior year SB 169, provided as supplementary information. Encouraged increasing the number of sex offender compliance actions. There has been an increase in the percentage of seat belt usage in the Alaska State Trooper jurisdiction.
402	Representative Croft	Questioned why burglaries have increased while sex offenses have declined.
427	Major Crawford	Could not second-guess about homicides in Alaska and the trend occurring. He admitted that burglaries are labor intense for the Division. Investigation follow-up is problematic. He believed that the Division would be in a better position of understanding at the end of the fiscal year. He advised that the Division is currently working on traffic issues.
530	Commissioner Godfrey	Noted the statistics throughout the nation.
571	Representative Foster	Questioned the missions and measures and the Department's effectiveness.
607	Commissioner Godfrey	Commented on the law enforcement in village areas and the necessary resources needed to make those arrests.
668	Major Crawford	Observed the number of new members in his force and why that was leaving the Division at a disadvantage.
710	Representative	Asked if rural Alaska or urban Alaska had

	Hudson	the most rapes and burglaries.
748	Commissioner Godfrey	Responded that in rural Alaska, the sexual assaults were much higher, whereas, in urban Alaska, the burglaries are far exceeding the rural area.
785	Commissioner Godfrey	Sec 121 - Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection. Listed the number of sport fishing violations; Number of hunter contacts made by the Division.
857	Representative Hudson	Asked if there had been differences with the changes in the law.
882	JOEL HARD, COL., DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	Noted the federal government had implemented regulations that mirrored those of the State.
925	Representative Hudson	Asked if they enforced their side.
935	Col. Hard	Acknowledged that was correct.
972	Representative Croft	Asked if the goal was to have a lot of hunter contacts or reducing the number of incidents of illegal fish and hunting.
1002	Col. Hard	Claimed that he did not know the exact intent and that it was his job to enforce the actual law. The results of the measure are that Fish and Wildlife have made arrests for a certain number of violations. He claimed that maintaining consistent visibility warrants enough presence alone. He claimed that hunting was less congested than sport fishing. This year the concentration was in rural Alaska.
1115	Co-Chair Mulder	Pointed out that the mission statement was to protect resources. He asked if there should be better refinement.
1174	Representative Foster	Asked the number of hunter violations?
1187	Col. Hard	The violation rate for this year was 357 or 2.5%.
1267	Commissioner Godfrey	Sec 122 - Alaska Police Standards Council. Listed the number of hours of recruit training that was funded. The hours of advanced training funded.
1319	Vice-Chair Bunde	Inquired about the success rate of the training. He asked if there were more graduating from the academy.
1345	Co-Chair Mulder	Asked what the numbers included.
1354	Commissioner Godfrey	Indicated that there are other courses provided outside of the academy. The numbers indicate the numbers.

1375	Commissioner Godfrey	Pointed out that the recruit training is from the Sitka academy only. The APS attempts to focus on a specific area.
1421	Co-Chair Mulder	Asked if there was a success ratio out of Sitka.
1445	Commissioner Godfrey	Explained the funding budget component.
1459	Representative Hudson	Questioned the difficulty with the recruitment.
1477	Commissioner Godfrey	There exists a national trend at this time and the Department has focused on recruitment efforts with prime time exposure. There have been positive benefits. At this time, there are 1400 applications. The Division is trying to target 1000 applicants in which 30 would be drawn from.
1553	Co-Chair Mulder	Asked if the allocation would fund troopers.
1565	Commissioner Godfrey	Explained that it does fund some.
1577	Major Crawford	Agreed.
1595	Major Crawford	Explained that the applicant is tracked up until the time of job offer. They attend the Academy with the understanding that their wish will be within a couple slots.
1644	Commissioner Godfrey	There is a mechanism in place at this time so that a trained person could transfer from one open location and department to another.
1670	Commissioner Godfrey	Sec 124 - Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory. Listed the average time from receipt of a case to issuance of a report; Average cost per case.
1713	Co-Chair Mulder	Asked for an explanation of why more work was being required.
1723	Commissioner Godfrey	Replied that there is more computer work and testing work required at this time.
1743	Co-Chair Mulder	Questioned how long it would take to get a positive DNA identification.
1753	Major Crawford	Responded that the statistics include all data and prints of the DNA.
1772	Co-Chair Mulder	Flagged that statistic for further work by the Subcommittee.
1778	Commissioner Godfrey	Acknowledged that it was an alarming statistic and offered to provide further clarifying info from the crime lab.
1803	Commissioner Godfrey	Added that the average cost per case is divided by the fiscal year costs.
1836	Commissioner Godfrey	Sec 125 - Public Safety Academy (PSA). The mission of PSA is to train law enforcement officers. He itemized the measures of the cost per officer trained;

		the measure of graduation rate and the measure percentage of officers who remain employed as law enforcement officers one year after graduating.
1892	Commissioner Godfrey	Spoke about the brown and blue shirt recruits. Of the latest 36 recruits, 13 still remain with the Department.
1917	Major Crawford	Explained that the Division lost two recruits in the field training. He added that they lose most candidates in the first few weeks, however, the washout rate comes during the field-training program. The Department is always up front about the pit falls and intensity of the training.
2050	Commissioner Godfrey	Sec 123 - Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (CDVSA). The mission of the Council is to reduce the causes and incidences and to alleviate the effects of domestic violence and sexual assault.
2115	TRISHA GENTLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	Explained the work of the Division. Spoke to the percentage of continuing clients and the number of batterers and the victims. She addressed the percentage of the Council's budget spent on prevention.
2197	Representative Croft	Pointed out that these measures are difficult to track.
	<b>TAPE HFC 01 - 10, Side A</b>	<b>Department of Public Safety (continued)</b>
015	Ms. Gentle	Spoke to the national data and the recidivism rates. She also addressed resources for the person coming out of the abusive relationship. The national average is about 15.
107	Co-Chair Mulder	Asked about the raw numbers.
118	Ms. Gentle	Stated that the numbers represent about 45% for FY01. She added that it was 40% for FY00. She reiterated that the majority of the overall budget was spent on prevention.
195	Ms. Gentle	Reiterated to Representative Hudson, that the total budget was 40% for prevention.
325	Co-Chair Mulder	Appreciated how the Council had focused the budget.
355	Ms. Gentle	Spoke to Measure #3 - The cost of shelter per night. She explained how the number was decided.
487	Representative Foster	Thought the more effective the agency becomes the more expensive they become.
581	Ms. Gentle	Agreed that the numbers had been rising. The cost represents many things.

608	Co-Chair Mulder	Data can help to get a handle on the costs. Fewer clientele could allow resources to be reallocated to prevention.
666	Representative Hudson	Questioned if advertising helps their business. Ms. Gentle stated that TV shows and advertising will increase calls. Beds are not always full.
730	Vice-Chair Bunde	Cost of beds in the shelter may help.
744	Ms. Gentle	Voiced concern that shelters have to be staffed whether or not the beds are full. The count given was by shelter night and Every counted bed was occupied.
813	Ms. Gentle	Discussed Measure 4 - how much money is going to prevention and had there been a reduction. She stated that there had not been a reduction, however, emphasized that the data represented only 6 months. There is no statewide database for reporting. The Department of Public Safety places a tag on their cases, and that has increased reporting efficiency.
912	Representative Croft	Asked for a breakdown between domestic violence and sexual assault for items 5 and 6.
949	Representative Whitaker	Noted that the Department of Public Safety data is used locally and questioned if it relates to the entire State. Ms. Gentle responded that the data reflects the Department's data, which excludes Anchorage and other municipalities. The mandate is statewide but the data is not.
1035	Co-Chair Mulder	Reviewed Measure 6. He observed that two thirds of the homicides are related to domestic violence and sexual assault.
1081	Representative Foster	Thanked the Commissioner for his rural presence.
		<b>DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME</b>
1119	KEVIN BROOKS, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME	Discussed the Department's missions and measures. He noted that the Department accomplishes many things. Some are indicators and some are performance measures.
1263	Mr. Brooks	The mission is tied to the Constitution. Sustained yield is central.
1323	Mr. Brooks	Clarified that all the divisions have met their measures. The Division of Administrative Services handles 75,000 invoices. 75 percent were processed within 30 days. Use of credit cards has affected this number by delaying charge.

1399	Mr. Brooks	Discussed Measure 3. The Department brought up an Internet application for fish and game licenses in Oct. 1999. It has been well received by vendors.
1443	Vice-Chair Bunde	Questioned if large vendors are being compensated beyond their costs. He asked if expenses could be reduced through the internet transactions.
1460	Mr. Brooks	He responded that there has been a savings and noted that internet sales totaled \$727,000 dollars.
1563	Mr. Brooks	Discussed Measure 4. He noted that agenda change requests for the Board of Game was reduced to one.
1650	Co-Chair Mulder	Advised that there have been political considerations used in the proposal.
1673	Representative Croft	Asked for an example of the measure.
1684	Co-Chair Mulder	Replied that the silver salmon issue was taken into consideration because of biological concerns. That action makes for a spawn-less situation.
1713	Mr. Brooks	Advised that it had not been a frivolous request.
1726	Mr. Brooks	Noted Section 70 - the number of escapement objectives met compared to the total number of objectives set per region. It was broken down by river systems. Federal money has been received.
1777	Mr. Brooks	The number of allocation objectives met compared to the total number of objectives set per region. Fourteen of the fifteen objectives have been met.
1815	Representative Hudson	Asked the effect that the change of subsistence management had on the concern.
1848	Mr. Brooks	Offered to meet with him on that. He noted that he would take that up with the Chair of the Subcommittee.
1865	Representative Croft	Referenced Region 3 - Bristol Bay.
1878	Mr. Brooks	Failures and returns. Issues with ocean survival and the number of fish being caught. The Board is working with these concerns.
1927	Representative Davies	Questioned the "number unknown".
1942	Mr. Brooks	Stated that sometimes it is impossible to "get out" because of the weather. There have been accidents involving employees, and the weather tends to be worse in Region 3.
1974	Mr. Brooks	Section 71 - Commercial Fisheries Limited

		Entry Commission. The Commissioner is on track in FY01 to meet all of the performance measures established for the agency in SB 281.
2037	Representative Whitaker	Asked about the detail on the asterisk indications. He requested more information.
2055	Mr. Brooks	Replied that the majority of the cases are handled within 3 or 4 days. This was a first year measure.
2085	Mr. Brooks	Section 72 - Habitat and Restoration. He noted that 95% of the Title 16 applications were approved or modified to protect, minimize, or mitigate damage within an average of 20 days after the receipt. 80% of the land use plans, review result in consensus on habitat related issues.
2174	Mr. Brooks	95% of the project reviews are for industrial development, road construction, and timber harvests are completed within an average of 25 days or within the scheduled time frame for complex projects.
2210	Mr. Brooks	100% of the third party contracted restoration projects are completed by the end of the contract period.
	<b>TAPE HFC 01 - 10, Side B</b>	<b>Department of Fish and Game (continued)</b>
130	Mr. Brooks	Responded to questions asked by Representative Hudson regarding expediting the process of application.
300	Mr. Brooks	Addressed Section 73 - Division of Subsistence. Listed the percentage of Alaska communities in each region for which fisheries harvest data are collected and reported; the percentage of Alaska communities in each region for which wildlife harvest data are collected; and the percentage of subsistence proposals at meetings of the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game for which subsistence data are assessed and recommendations are made.
407	Mr. Brooks	Continued, itemizing the percentage of proposed statutory and regulatory changes by federal and other State entities for which subsistence data are assessed and recommendations are made.
700	Mr. Brooks	Section 74 - Division of Sport Fish. For river systems that support a harvest of 100 or more king salmon, the number and

		percentage for which an escapement goal is established, and would be considered.
782	Mr. Brooks	Noted for the river systems that support a harvest of 100 or more king salmon, the number and percentage for which <u>enumeration</u> occurs annually will be considered;
887	Mr. Brooks	For river systems that support a harvest of 100 or more king salmon, the number and percentage of <u>escapement</u> objectives achieved annually will be considered.
927	Mr. Brooks	Section 75 - The number of big game surveys completed for population identified by the Board of Game as important for providing high levels of human consumptive use; the number of hunting and trapping licenses sold and the total revenue generated. He added that around 20% of Alaskans between 16 - 59 are buying licenses.
1069	Representative Lancaster	Asked if that number had declined.
1082	Mr. Brooks	Replied that nationally the number is decreasing, but Alaska has been holding it's own.
1102	Co-Chair Mulder	Asked about the sport fishing statistics in the Western states.
1116	Mr. Brooks	Understood that it was the same as hunting. He offered to provide that information. He imagined that the fishing percentage would be higher.
1173	Mr. Brooks	Noted the total amount of visitors visiting the State's wildlife viewing areas at Pack Creek, McNeil River, Potter's Marsh, and Creamer's Field.
1356	Mr. Brooks	Noted that these areas are now listed on the internet. Eventually, permits will be listed on that site.
1410	Co-Chair Mulder	Asked about the management activity of the McNeil River.
1428	Mr. Brooks	Thought that it was in conjunction with the federal government.
1457	Representative Lancaster	Asked how the visitors at Potter's Marsh were tracked.
1476	Mr. Brooks	Did not know and offered to provide that information to the Committee.
1510	Co-Chair Mulder	<b>ADJOURNED</b> the meeting at 4:35 P.M.