

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES
STANDING COMMITTEE
February 21, 2002
4:10 p.m.

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

OVERVIEW: SEPARATE AGENCY FOR THE BLIND

TAPES

02-15, SIDE A

[This overview occurred in the middle of the regular meeting that began at 3:04 p.m. See tapes 02-14 and 02-16.]

CALL TO ORDER

REPRESENTATIVE FRED DYSON, Chair, reconvened the House Health, Education and Social Services Standing Committee meeting at 4:10 p.m. [Minutes for HB 411, HB 352, and HB 252 can be found in the 3:04 p.m. minutes for this same date.]

PRESENT

Committee members present were Representatives Dyson, Coghill, Kohring, Cissna, and Joule.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

LYNNE KORRAL, President, Alaska Independent Blind, provided an overview of issues that confront blind Alaskans and the need for the creation of a separate agency that deals only with these matters. She offered that research shows that the number of blind Alaskans and problems confronting them are on the rise. The resources used to assist the blind need to likewise increase. A handout was distributed outlining model legislation for the formation of such an agency or commission.

ELMER LINDSTROM, Deputy Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner, Department of Health and Social Services, explained that no department has assumed responsibility for creating regulations from legislation passed several years ago.

WILLIAM CRAIG, Alaska Independent Blind, related the frustration many blind people experience when seeking resources from many different agencies. He emphasized the need for accessible resources.

SANDY SANDERSON, Alaska Independent Blind, drew attention to funding issues and cited statistics showing the marked increase of blindness in the U.S.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

COMMITTEE ACTION

The committee took no action.

ADJOURNMENT

CHAIR DYSON [called an at-ease] at 4:35 p.m. in order to return to the rest of the calendar. [Minutes for HB 411, HB 352, and HB 252 can be found in the 3:04 p.m. minutes for this same date.]

NOTE: The meeting was recorded and handwritten log notes were taken. A copy of the tape(s) and log notes may be obtained by contacting the House Records Office at State Capitol, Room 3, Juneau, Alaska 99801 (mailing address), (907) 465-2214, and after adjournment of the second session of the Twenty-Second Alaska State Legislature this information may be obtained by contacting the Legislative Reference Library at (907) 465-3808.