

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS
STANDING COMMITTEE**

April 27, 2004

8:11 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Carl Morgan, Chair
Representative Kelly Wolf, Vice Chair
Representative Tom Anderson
Representative Ralph Samuels
Representative Sharon Cissna
Representative Albert Kookesh

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Pete Kott

OTHER LEGISLATORS PRESENT

Senator Ben Stevens

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14

Requesting the Federal Aviation Administration to fully staff and maintain flight service stations in Alaska.

- MOVED SJR 14 OUT OF COMMITTEE

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25

Recommending that certain federal funding restrictions be eased so that more villages in Alaska would qualify for assistance relating to flooding and erosion.

- MOVED SJR 25 OUT OF COMMITTEE

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 227(STA) am

"An Act relating to municipal runoff elections and to municipal initiative and referendum elections."

- MOVED CSSB 227(STA) am OUT OF COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 461

"An Act relating to enhanced 911 surcharges and to emergency services dispatch systems of municipalities, certain villages, and public corporations established by municipalities."

- MOVED CSHB 461(CRA) OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: SJR 14

SHORT TITLE: FAA FLIGHT SERVICE STATIONS

SPONSOR(S): SENATOR(S) OLSON

03/24/03	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
03/24/03	(S)	TRA, CRA
04/10/03	(H)	TRA AT 1:30 PM CAPITOL 17
04/10/03	(H)	-- Meeting Canceled --
04/11/03	(S)	TRA RPT 3DP
04/11/03	(S)	DP: COWDERY, WAGONER, OLSON
04/23/03	(S)	CRA AT 1:30 PM FAHRENKAMP 203
04/23/03	(S)	Moved Out of Committee
04/23/03	(S)	MINUTE(CRA)
04/24/03	(S)	CRA RPT 4DP
04/24/03	(S)	DP: WAGONER, LINCOLN, ELTON, TAYLOR
03/19/04	(S)	TRANSMITTED TO (H)
03/19/04	(S)	VERSION: SJR 14
03/22/04	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
03/22/04	(H)	TRA, CRA
04/20/04	(H)	TRA AT 1:30 PM CAPITOL 17
04/20/04	(H)	Moved Out of Committee
04/20/04	(H)	MINUTE(TRA)
04/21/04	(H)	TRA RPT 5DP
04/21/04	(H)	DP: MASEK, OGG, STEPOVICH, KOHRING,
04/21/04	(H)	HOLM
04/27/04	(H)	CRA AT 8:00 AM CAPITOL 124

BILL: SJR 25

SHORT TITLE: FLOODING AND EROSION CONTROL ASSISTANCE

SPONSOR(S): SENATOR(S) OLSON

02/06/04	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/06/04	(S)	CRA, STA
02/25/04	(S)	CRA AT 1:30 PM FAHRENKAMP 203
02/25/04	(S)	Moved SJR 25 Out of Committee
02/25/04	(S)	MINUTE(CRA)
02/27/04	(S)	CRA RPT 5DP
02/27/04	(S)	DP: STEDMAN, LINCOLN, STEVENS G, ELTON,
02/27/04	(S)	WAGONER

03/30/04 (S) STA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 211
03/30/04 (S) Moved SJR 25 Out of Committee
03/30/04 (S) MINUTE(STA)
03/31/04 (S) STA RPT 4DP
03/31/04 (S) DP: STEVENS G, COWDERY, STEDMAN, GUESS
04/16/04 (S) TRANSMITTED TO (H)
04/16/04 (S) VERSION: SJR 25
04/19/04 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
04/19/04 (H) CRA, STA
04/27/04 (H) CRA AT 8:00 AM CAPITOL 124

BILL: SB 227

SHORT TITLE: MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

SPONSOR(S): SENATOR(S) STEVENS G

05/15/03 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
05/15/03 (S) CRA, STA
02/18/04 (S) CRA AT 1:30 PM FAHRENKAMP 203
02/18/04 (S) Moved SB 227 Out of Committee
02/18/04 (S) MINUTE(CRA)
02/19/04 (S) CRA RPT 4DP 1NR
02/19/04 (S) DP: STEDMAN, LINCOLN, WAGONER,
02/19/04 (S) STEVENS G; NR: ELTON
02/24/04 (S) STA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 211
02/24/04 (S) Heard & Held
02/24/04 (S) MINUTE(STA)
02/26/04 (S) STA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 211
02/26/04 (S) Moved CSSB 227(STA) Out of Committee
02/26/04 (S) MINUTE(STA)
02/27/04 (S) STA RPT CS FORTHCOMING 1DP 2NR
02/27/04 (S) DP: STEVENS G; NR: COWDERY, STEDMAN
03/01/04 (S) STA CS RECEIVED SAME TITLE
03/26/04 (S) TRANSMITTED TO (H)
03/26/04 (S) VERSION: CSSB 227(STA) AM
03/29/04 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
03/29/04 (H) CRA, STA
04/27/04 (H) CRA AT 8:00 AM CAPITOL 124

BILL: HB 461

SHORT TITLE: EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPATCH/911 SURCHARGE

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) HOLM

02/16/04 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/16/04 (H) CRA, STA
03/02/04 (H) CRA AT 8:00 AM CAPITOL 124
03/02/04 (H) Heard & Held <Subcommittee Assigned>
03/02/04 (H) MINUTE(CRA)

04/27/04

(H)

CRA AT 8:00 AM CAPITOL 124

WITNESS REGISTER

SENATOR DONALD OLSON

Alaska State Legislature

Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Spoke as the sponsor of SJR 14 and SJR 25.

SENATOR GARY STEVENS

Alaska State Legislature

Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Spoke as the sponsor of SB 227.

MONA LISA DREXLER, Clerk

Fairbanks North Star Borough

Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Urged the committee to forward [CSSB 227(STA)am].

ACTION NARRATIVE

TAPE 04-14, SIDE A

Number 0001

CHAIR CARL MORGAN called the House Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 8:11 a.m. Representatives Morgan, Wolf, Anderson, Samuels, and Kookesh were present at the call to order. Representative Cissna arrived as the meeting was in progress.

SJR 14-FAA FLIGHT SERVICE STATIONS

CHAIR MORGAN announced that the first order of business would be SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14, Requesting the Federal Aviation Administration to fully staff and maintain flight service stations in Alaska.

Number 0105

SENATOR DONALD OLSON, Alaska State Legislature, sponsor of SJR 14, paraphrased from the following sponsor statement [original punctuation provided]:

SJR 14 is a resolution requesting the Federal Aviation Administration to fully staff and maintain its flight service stations in Alaska.

Alaska is a vast state that relies on air transportation for much of its commerce and connectivity. A substantial portion of the State of Alaska does not have the road infrastructure to facilitate the transport of freight and the movement of people. Furthermore, coastal and river communities in Western, Central, and Northern Alaska lose their marine transportation alternative during the 5 to 8 months of winter ice conditions. These communities then are solely dependent on air transportation for travel, goods and emergency services for a substantial part of the year.

Furthermore, there is a large number of Alaskans that own and fly airplanes. Indeed, Alaska has the highest percentage of general aviation users per capita in the United States. General Aviation users depend on FAA flight service stations to inform them of runway closures and conflicting runway traffic.

FAA flight service stations are essential for the continued safety and dependability of Alaska's vital air transportation network. Both commercial and private pilots are totally reliant on the expertise and competence of FAA's flight service personnel. The state of Alaska has over 180 airports that depend on flight service stations for weather updates, runway conditions, and assistance with safe air travel.

I respectfully urge your support for this resolution, helping to ensure the safety of air travel in Alaska.

CHAIR MORGAN, upon determining there were no questions and no one wishing to testify, announced that public testimony was closed.

Number 0364

REPRESENTATIVE WOLF moved to report SJR 14 out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, SJR 14 was reported from the House Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee.

SJR 25-FLOODING AND EROSION CONTROL ASSISTANCE

CHAIR MORGAN announced that the next order of business would be SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25, Recommending that certain federal funding restrictions be eased so that more villages in Alaska would qualify for assistance relating to flooding and erosion.

Number 0452

SENATOR DONALD OLSON, Alaska State Legislature, sponsor of SJR 25, provided the following statements:

On November 8, 2003, a winter storm hit western Alaska. This storm caused considerable damage to Unalakleet, Shishmaref, and some of Nome's surrounding areas. While the governor had declared a state of disaster because of the storm, the continued effects of the erosion on the villages of Alaska are not being solved by emergency disaster declarations. Because of that we need help and a coordinated effort by the Army Corps of Engineers. One of the difficulties that we've been facing is that the Army Corps of Engineers has a cost and benefit analysis for projects in rural Alaska. SJR 25 is a resolution requesting that the Army Corps of Engineers go ahead and ease the restrictions of the cost-benefit analysis for these projects.

I proposed this resolution in response to many concerns voiced by my constituents and the constituents in other parts of Alaska, outside of my district, with regard to the erosion and flooding problems that plague rural Alaska. Currently, many of the villages in western Alaska and throughout the state are not receiving the assistance needed for the protection of life and property, and because of that I urge your support for this resolution to focus attention on this very serious matter.

CHAIR MORGAN, upon determining there were no questions and no one wishing to testify, announced that public testimony was closed.

Number 0613

REPRESENTATIVE ANDERSON moved to report SJR 25 out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal

notes. There being no objection, SJR 25 was reported from the House Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee.

The committee took an at-ease from 8:20 a.m. to 8:21 a.m.

SB 227-MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

CHAIR MORGAN announced that the next order of business would be CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 227(STA) am, "An Act relating to municipal runoff elections and to municipal initiative and referendum elections."

Number 0721

SENATOR GARY STEVENS, Alaska State Legislature, sponsor of SB 227, explained that his original legislation is found in Sections 4-6 of CSSB 227(STA)am. The original legislation came about due to requests from several municipalities that wanted to find a way to avoid the cost of special initiative elections and referendums. This legislation would allow the municipality the option to decide not to have a special election if it was determined that the issue wasn't so imminent or important and could wait until the next regular election to be placed on the ballot. Current law forces municipalities to hold elections on referendums and initiatives within 75 days. The special elections can be costly and burdensome for the municipalities and generate low voter turnout. For example, in the Fairbanks North Star Borough 46 petitions were filed during a period of four months and although it resulted in one special election, it could've been an onerous situation. The cost for a special election in the Fairbanks North Star Borough is approximately \$35,000 and requires more volunteers as well as additional workload on municipal employees. Therefore, Sections 4-6 would create an option for municipalities that streamlines the process and saves money.

SENATOR GARY STEVENS pointed out that Sections 1-3, which was an amendment made on the Senate floor, are specific to Anchorage. Sections 1-3 allow communities with a population under 100,000 to choose by ordinance to elect a mayor with over 40 percent of the vote. However, the language on page 2, lines 2-4, would require that a mayoral candidate in Anchorage must receive over 50 percent of the votes, otherwise a runoff election will be held.

Number 1036

REPRESENTATIVE ANDERSON asked if Senator Gary Stevens would like anything in CSSB 227(STA)am to be changed in the House.

SENATOR GARY STEVENS noted that he did vote for the Senate floor amendment.

REPRESENTATIVE ANDERSON noted that he has received quite a few e-mails in opposition to requiring a mayoral candidate to receive 50 percent of the votes because it's costly.

SENATOR GARY STEVENS stated that the original legislation is quite sound and logical, and therefore he said he would hate to see the Senate floor amendment dealing with Anchorage's mayoral race stop the legislation's progress.

Number 1166

REPRESENTATIVE KOOKESH recalled that there was an election to determine the [percentages] required for a mayoral election.

SENATOR GARY STEVENS said he believes that is true.

REPRESENTATIVE KOOKESH questioned why the legislature should pass legislation overturning what the people of Anchorage decided on via a vote. He noted his discomfort with such action.

Number 1321

MONA LISA DREXLER, Clerk, Fairbanks North Star Borough, informed the committee that she is speaking on behalf of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly as well as her office. Ms. Drexler announced that the Fairbanks North Star Borough supports SB 227. It's important to address the initiative and referendum petition process that was addressed in the original legislation. She then turned to what this legislation means to second class boroughs, second class cities, cities that don't have charters, and cities that aren't home ruled. Yesterday, the Kenai Borough municipal clerk approved three petition applications. Without this legislation, if those petitioners submit petitions by a certain date, the Kenai Borough will have a special election in September, which is just prior to the regular October election. Ms. Drexler related that in the last two weeks she has had three requests for petition applications, which could result in another special election in Fairbanks prior to the October election. Special elections are costly, she emphasized. In fact, she recalled that the last special election in Fairbanks

cost \$60,000, not including the clerk's staff time or other issues. However, the voter turnout was dismal. Ms. Drexler said, "We speak in favor of the bill as it was amended with the local option. That was the intent of those of us that asked for it to be there all along. We support local options." She urged the committee to forward [CSSB 227(STA)am].

SENATOR GARY STEVENS asked if any of the issues in Kenai and Fairbanks are of such importance that they need to be decided in September rather than October. The issues in Kenai could wait until October as those deal with some service area issues that are generally placed on the October ballot. With regard to the last two special elections Fairbanks had, both of them could've waited until October. Furthermore, the upcoming issues in Fairbanks could also wait until October. However, if the borough assembly felt that it was in the best interest of the public to place a matter before the public, the borough assembly can call a special election to make it happen.

REPRESENTATIVE WOLF turned to the petitions in the Kenai Peninsula Borough and inquired as to whether those are being put forth by special interest groups or individuals.

MS. DREXLER said that she didn't know the issues because she and the Kenai Peninsula Borough clerk were merely discussing timelines. Ms. Drexler related that the Kenai Peninsula Borough Clerk had wanted Ms. Drexler to emphasize the importance of timing. Under current state law, not having the option to wait until the October regular election is very costly.

Number 1811

REPRESENTATIVE ANDERSON informed the committee that Anchorage had a 50 percent plus rule [for mayoral elections]. However, during the 2003 mayoral election there was also a charter amendment to reduce the 50 percent plus rule to 45 percent, which passed. Therefore, the 45 percent rule afforded Mark Begich the victory by a slight [margin]. He recalled there being a view that Mayor Begich didn't receive a true majority because he wasn't supported by over 50 percent of the electorate. He explained, "The contention came because folks said, 'Hey, if you add this 50 percent rule and there are special elections, it's going to be expensive and there's going to be a small turnout.'" However, in 2000 the runoff election for the mayor's race resulted in 6,000 more people voting.

REPRESENTATIVE CISSNA commented that numerous legislators haven't received 50 percent of the vote. She, then, questioned why the legislature should be making decisions for municipalities.

SENATOR GARY STEVENS pointed out that the state's laws govern municipal elections, which is what this legislation would amend.

REPRESENTATIVE ANDERSON opined that this is about the idea of consensus and Anchorage's history illustrates that there can be increased voter turnout during a special election.

REPRESENTATIVE KOOKESH echoed earlier concern with regard to the legislature overturning a local government's decision.

Number 2140

CHAIR MORGAN added that [the legislature] has had no problem dictating what should occur in rural Alaska. He highlighted "boroughization" and forced accounting as examples. With regard to a legislator winning by less than 40 percent, Chair Morgan noted that he had to go through a primary before the regular election. Chair Morgan noted that he agreed with Representative Kookesh.

REPRESENTATIVE ANDERSON said that he didn't believe this legislation would impair any future elections because there would be knowledge of it. Representative Anderson commented that this is good legislation.

SENATOR GARY STEVENS deferred to Senator Ben Stevens regarding any questions concerning Sections 1-3.

CHAIR MORGAN, upon determining there were no further questions and no one else who wished to testify, closed public testimony.

Number 2345

REPRESENTATIVE CISSNA moved that the committee adopt Amendment 1, which read:

Page 1, Line 12-Page 2, Line 6; delete all material

Renumber sections accordingly.

REPRESENTATIVE CISSNA explained that Amendment 1 would maintain local power.

REPRESENTATIVES ANDERSON AND WOLF objected.

REPRESENTATIVE CISSNA indicated that this is an unfunded mandates. Representative Cissna said that these type of decisions should be local decisions.

Number 2617

REPRESENTATIVE ANDERSON maintained his objection to Amendment 1, and opined that the adoption of Amendment 1 would discourage voter turnout. He related his belief that Senator [Ben] Stevens [offered the amendment to CSSB 227(STA) on the Senate floor] in order to encourage voter turnout and embrace a majority consensus in an election. As policymakers, Representative Anderson opined that it's in the legislature's purview to work with municipalities, which the legislature funds in many ways.

REPRESENTATIVE WOLF maintained his objection as well, and expressed the need to adhere to people's wishes in regard to electing someone with the majority of voters.

REPRESENTATIVE KOOKESH interjected that Representative Wolf should vote for Amendment 1 because the people in Anchorage voted for a certain percentage.

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Cissna and Kookesh voted in favor of Amendment 1. Representatives Anderson, Samuels, Wolf, and Morgan voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 1 failed by a vote of 2-4.

Number 2758

REPRESENTATIVE ANDERSON moved to report CSSB 227(STA)am out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying zero fiscal note.

REPRESENTATIVE CISSNA objected.

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Wolf, Anderson, Samuels, and Morgan voted in favor of reporting CSSB 227(STA)am. Representatives Cissna and Kookesh voted against it. Therefore, CSSB 227(STA)am was reported out of the House Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee by a vote of 4-2.

The committee took an at-ease from 8:55 a.m. to 8:58 a.m.

HB 461-EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPATCH/911 SURCHARGE

CHAIR MORGAN announced that the final order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 461, "An Act relating to enhanced 911 surcharges and to emergency services dispatch systems of municipalities, certain villages, and public corporations established by municipalities."

Number 2830

REPRESENTATIVE WOLF moved that the committee bring out of subcommittee CSHB 461, Version 23-LS1633\W, Cook, 4/21/04. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

CHAIR MORGAN remarked that Version W doesn't really fix the problem in the Bush, and therefore the committee packet includes an amendment that would provide a solution for the Bush. He indicated that he has spoken with Representative Kott on the matter as well as Bush constituents.

REPRESENTATIVE ANDERSON disclosed that he worked on contract with the Alaska Telephone Association last summer, and therefore he requested that he not have to vote on this matter.

REPRESENTATIVE SAMUELS objected, and therefore Representative Anderson was required to vote.

CHAIR MORGAN explained that the amendment would result in the state providing a toll-free statewide default public safety answering point (PSAP) for areas in which there is no local or regional PSAP. The amendment [Amendment 1] read as follows:

Page 5, line 2, following "enhanced,":

Insert "for areas where there is no local or regional public safety answering point, the state shall provide a toll-free, statewide default public safety answering point to which"

Page 5, lines 3 and 4:

Delete "that provides wireline service to an area outside a municipality"

Page 5, line 4, following "base":

Insert "."

Page 5, lines 5 and 6:

Delete all material.

Number 2942

REPRESENTATIVE CISSNA asked if this amendment would result in a fiscal impact.

CHAIR MORGAN replied yes, and suggested that perhaps two people would be needed [to staff a statewide default PSAP].

REPRESENTATIVE SAMUELS inquired as to whether the [staff for a statewide default PSAP] could be incorporated with the Alaska State Troopers.

REPRESENTATIVE CISSNA pointed out that the Alaska State Troopers are already stressed.

CHAIR MORGAN informed the committee that in Aniak if one dials 911, the only response is for fire and life-threatening situations. However, a felony or a crime which necessitates the Alaska State Troopers results in a long-distance call to Bethel so that the sergeant approve [the dispatch to Aniak].

TAPE 04-14, SIDE B

REPRESENTATIVE WOLF asked if anyone knew where a 911 call from Pilot Station would be directed.

REPRESENTATIVE SAMUELS assumed that it would go to the Alaska State Troopers headquarters in Anchorage.

CHAIR MORGAN interjected that he wasn't sure a 911 call for Pilot Station would be directed to anyone, unless the local telephone company directed it to the local village public safety officer (VPSO). In response to Representative Kookesh, Chair Morgan specified that the amendment would fix the aforementioned. He related that the Bush telephone companies believe 911 is a good idea, but they also believe someone has to be available to answer the call.

REPRESENTATIVE WOLF related his assumption that a 911 call from Levelock would be routed to King Salmon or Naknek, which is a distance. He surmised that the amendment wouldn't require a short-time response.

CHAIR MORGAN agreed, and clarified that the amendment merely provide a person [to answer the 911 call].

Number 2894

REPRESENTATIVE SAMUELS opined that it makes sense for a 911 call to be routed to King Salmon or Naknek where there is a police department. He asked if the statewide default PSAP should be routed to the closest borough police department, where there is already a 24-hour dispatch person. Therefore, the language "the state shall provide" means that the closest police department is where the call will be directed.

REPRESENTATIVE CISSNA asked whether changing the language to refer to a regional public safety hub rather than "the state" would eliminate the need for a fiscal note, and therefore possibly have a chance of passing. She predicated that a referral to the House Finance Committee would kill the legislation.

REPRESENTATIVE KOOKESH pointed out that there is a constitutional requirement for the state to provide public safety in this state. If VSPOs and Alaska State Troopers aren't going to be placed in every community, then there should at least be a way in which to contact Alaska State Troopers, which is what this amendment would achieve.

Number 2776

REPRESENTATIVE ANDERSON expressed concern that the members of the Alaska Telephone Association would have to fund this, although it's for public safety. Therefore, the telephone providers were nervous because they didn't feel that they could afford this. However, he agreed with Representative Kookesh that there has to be some sort of public safety. If this is the best means at this juncture, he announced that he would support the amendment.

REPRESENTATIVE CISSNA suggested changing the language of the amendment such that it refers to a "regional public safety point" rather than specifying that "the state shall provide".

REPRESENTATIVE SAMUELS pointed out that the language "the state shall provide" doesn't mean that the state has to man a PSAP. There may be some communities that would prefer 911 calls to be routed to a specific location rather than a regional PSAP.

REPRESENTATIVE ANDERSON interjected that such a language change would probably cause boroughs to feel that they are forced to pay for this system by employing staff.

REPRESENTATIVE CISSNA clarified that she isn't suggesting that it be the borough, but rather the regional state [PSAP].

CHAIR MORGAN said that's what the amendment does.

Number 2622

REPRESENTATIVES CISSNA and WOLF moved that the committee adopt Amendment 1 [text provided previously].

REPRESENTATIVE WOLF objected for discussion purposes.

REPRESENTATIVE CISSNA asked if a conceptual amendment specifying that the language "the state" refers to the next highest local regional state entity" could be referred to the next committee of referral.

REPRESENTATIVE KOOKESH opined that the amendment is worded fine.

REPRESENTATIVE ANDERSON explained that the amendment means that if there isn't a local or regional PSAP, the state would have to provide a toll-free PSAP. However, he noted that the toll-free PSAP may be a dispatch point. He related his presumption that it would be covered by the Department of Public Safety.

Number 2543

REPRESENTATIVE WOLF asked if the amendment is allowing communities in rural Alaska to opt-out of the fee proposed in HB 461 for enhanced 911 services.

CHAIR MORGAN related that the rural telephone operators to which he spoke aren't going to opt-out because they don't mind paying the \$1.00 fee.

REPRESENTATIVE SAMUELS said that he read the amendment to specify that the phone call is free, but the \$1.00 per line would still be paid.

REPRESENTATIVE WOLF withdrew his objection.

There being no further objections, Amendment 1 was adopted.

The committee took a brief at-ease.

Number 2428

REPRESENTATIVE WOLF moved to report CSHB 461, Version 23-LS1633\W, Cook, 4/21/04, as amended, out of committee with individual recommendations, the accompanying fiscal note, and a forthcoming fiscal note. There being no objection, CSHB 461(CRA) was reported from the House Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 9:16 a.m.