

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES
STANDING COMMITTEE**

January 22, 2004

3:26 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Peggy Wilson, Chair
Representative Carl Gatto, Vice Chair
Representative Paul Seaton
Representative Sharon Cissna
Representative Mary Kapsner

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative John Coghill
Representative Kelly Wolf

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

PRESENTATION BY THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND
SPECIAL EDUCATION

[For the regular meeting minutes, see the 3:03 p.m. minutes for
this date.]

TAPES

04-5, SIDE(S) A

CHAIR PEGGY WILSON reconvened the meeting of the House Health,
Education and Social Services Standing Committee at 3:26 p.m.
Representatives Wilson, Gatto, Seaton, Cissna, and Kapsner were
present at the call to order.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

KATHLEEN FITZGERALD, Vice-Chair, Governor's Council on
Disabilities and Special Education, presented the main part of
the overview. She spoke of the history and work of the council
and also spoke about some of the council's policy objectives.

GAYLA VALLE, Member, Governor's Council on Disabilities and
Special Education, spoke of her son, and the valuable services
granted to him through the work of the council. She also

presented other useful information about the council specifically.

JODI RUMPF, Legislative Chair, Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, spoke of the importance of a redesigned infant program, as well as the importance for a newborn hearing-screening test to diagnose children with hearing disabilities. She said that such screenings could save the state money by allowing children with hearing disabilities to learn language skills faster, and then they would need less assistance later in their educational career.

MILLIE RYAN, Executive Director, Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, spoke of how cost analyses are underway to establish the long-term cost/benefits of many related programs. Ms. Ryan also spoke of using Medicaid funding to assist schools in providing covered mental and physical assistance to disabled students.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

COMMITTEE ACTION

The committee took no action.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Health, Education and Social Services Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

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-Third Alaska State Legislature this information may be obtained by contacting the Legislative Reference Library at (907) 465-3808.