

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON WORLD TRADE AND STATE/FEDERAL
RELATIONS

May 15, 2003
9:50 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator John Cowdery, Chair
Senator Gene Therriault
Senator Gretchen Guess

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Ralph Seekins
Senator Donny Olson

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28 am
Urging the United States Congress to support the granting of official Observer Status to the Republic of China at the World Health Assembly Annual Conference to be held at Geneva, Switzerland, in May 2003, and to support negotiation of a free trade agreement with the Republic of China.

MOVED OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS ACTION

HJR 28 - No previous action to record.

WITNESS REGISTER

Ms. Helen Bedder
Aide to Representative Heinze
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified for the sponsor of HJR 28

ACTION NARRATIVE

TAPE 03-2, SIDE A

CHAIR JOHN COWDERY called the Senate Special Committee on World Trade and State/Federal Relations meeting to order at 9:50 p.m. Senators Therriault, Guess and Chair Cowdery were present at the call to order. The committee took up HJR 28.

HJR 28-TAIWAN: TRADE & WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

MS. HELEN BEDDER, aide to Representative Cheryl Heinze, told members that HJR 28 urges Congress to support the granting of official observer status to the Republic of China (Taiwan) at the World Health Assembly annual conference in Geneva, Switzerland this month. HJR 28 also urges Congress to support the negotiation of a free trade agreement with the Republic of China.

MS. BEDDER pointed out this resolution also authorizes the Alaska Legislature to encourage Congress to endorse a request by the Republic of China to be granted observer status at the annual conference. It further authorizes the Alaska Legislature to urge Congress to encourage the Bush Administration to negotiate a free trade agreement with the Republic of China. She informed members HJR 28 has a zero fiscal note.

CHAIR COWDERY mentioned the State of Alaska has had a good working relationship with Taiwan and has a state employee working there.

SENATOR GUESS moved to pass HJR 28 out of committee with individual recommendations and its attached fiscal note(s).

CHAIR COWDERY noted that without objection, the motion carried. He then adjourned the meeting at 9:52 p.m.