

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
JOINT MEETING
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE**

March 2, 2006

3:35 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS

Senator Gene Therriault, Chair
Senator Charlie Huggins
Senator Bettye Davis

HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS

Representative Berta Gardner

OTHER LEGISLATORS PRESENT

Representative Mary Kapsner

MEMBERS ABSENT

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS

Senator Thomas Wagoner, Vice Chair
Senator Kim Elton

HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS

Representative Paul Seaton, Chair
Representative Carl Gatto, Vice Chair
Representative Max Gruenberg
Representative Jim Elkins
Representative Bob Lynn
Representative Jay Ramras

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Alaska 20/20 Annual Report

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

No previous action to record.

WITNESS REGISTER

Ken Osterkamp, Chief Executive Officer
Alaska 20/20

510 L Street, Suite 585
Anchorage, AK 99501

POSITION STATEMENT: Presented Alaska 20/20 Second Annual Report

ACTION NARRATIVE

CHAIR GENE THERRIAULT called the joint meeting of the Senate and House State Affairs Standing Committees to order at [3:35:28 PM](#). Representative Berta Gardner, Senator Bettye Davis, Senator Charlie Huggins and Chair Gene Therriault were present. Representative Mary Kapsner was also in attendance.

Alaska 20/20: Alaska Progress Report

CHAIR GENE THERRIAULT asked Mr. Osterkamp to come forward and present the Alaska 20/20 annual report.

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KEN OSTERKAMP, Chief Executive Officer for Alaska 20/20, explained that in 1999 Alaska 20/20 began as an Alaska Humanities Forum project to determine how the public wanted to measure progress in Alaska. Objectives were established to track progress over time and to compare Alaska with other states. He described the current process as the best effort ever made to canvas the public to see how Alaskans define public objectives. He noted that Alaska is the fourth state in the nation to complete this citizen driven process, which establishes a broad measure of the quality of life in Alaska.

Conferences were held in 2001 and 2004. In the intervening time about 120 public meetings were held and telephone and Internet surveys were conducted on the general population and particular groups.

MR. OSTERKAMP reviewed the state of the state in terms of 49 individual measures.

49 Measures for the 49th State

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General measures

1. Demographics
2. Disparities

[3:41:40 PM](#)

Education:

- Children will enter school ready to learn
3. Ready to Learn

Students will graduate prepared for postsecondary opportunities

4. Students
5. Teachers
6. Schools
7. Curricula

Postsecondary institutions will enable personal and professional development

8. Postsecondary Institutions
9. Higher Degrees

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Economy:

Alaskans will have access to quality jobs at livable wages

10. Income
11. Poverty
12. Employment & Wages
13. Unemployment
14. Workforce Development

Businesses will be encouraged to innovate and grow

15. Small Business
16. Costs of Business
17. Transportation

Economic growth will be sustainable

18. Diversification
19. Federal spending

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Environment:

Biological diversity and wilderness areas will be preserved

20. Biodiversity
21. Wilderness

High air, land and water quality will be maintained

22. Air Quality
23. Land Quality
24. Water Quality

Energy and natural resource conservation will be encouraged

25. Fisheries
26. Energy
27. Waste

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Community:

Communities will be safe

28. Crime
29. Courts
30. Corrections

Communities will be healthy

31. Access to Health Care
32. Mothers and Infants
33. Children and Teens
34. Physical Health
35. Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
37. Risky Behavior

Communities will be livable

38. Housing and Utilities
39. Social Services
40. Caring and culture
41. Subsistence

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Government:

Government will be trusted

42. Public Opinion
43. Voter Turnout
44. Public Management

Government will be effective

45. Cost of Government
46. Missions & Measures

Government will be sustainable

47. Balanced Budget
48. Net Assets
49. Public Debt

The following questions were asked during the course of the presentation.

REPRESENTATIVE KAPSNER asked if the education information is broken down by region.

MR. OSTERKAMP said it is, but not when there are so few students in a region that breaking the information out would violate privacy.

REPRESENTATIVE KAPSNER asked if students with limited English proficiency are impacting the ready-to-learn indicator.

MR. OSTERKAMP replied the categories are broken out differently so it's not indicated by the data. However, No Child Left Behind

requires K-12 data be broken out that way so you could get the information from the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), website. That data indicates that group consistently underperforms across all areas. He noted that Alaska is the only state without a state-sponsored pre-K program, which probably contributes to that dynamic.

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REPRESENTATIVE KAPSNER referenced page 27 and questioned why Alaskans generate 50 percent more waste per person than the national average.

MR. OSTERKAMP replied it was difficult to find good data about solid waste generation in Alaska. The Anchorage landfill is a notable success, but for the most part Alaska has problems with recycling and the fact is it's frequently not cost effective.

REPRESENTATIVE KAPSNER questioned how much waste the government might generate from activity such as asbestos abatement.

MR. OSTERKAMP said it's difficult to break out; the Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) website has the data broken out in terms of different material, but public versus private sector waste production isn't addressed.

He reiterated there is room for improvement as far as collecting data on environmental measures.

SENATOR CHARLIE HUGGINS questioned the student dropout rate listed on page 4.

MR. OSTERKAMP pointed out that the narrative states that the measure isn't adequate because the Department of Education tracks graduation rates while the Department of Labor tracks dropout rates.

SENATOR HUGGINS questioned the utility of the document.

MR. OSTERKAMP explained that the 20/20 project was designed to give a common set of measurements to discuss public objectives. The report is cited in public policy debates with greater frequently and it's difficult to find the same data anywhere else.

SENATOR BETTYE DAVIS asked for a copy of the 2004 report.

MR. OSTERKAMP agreed.

REPRESENTATIVE KAPSNER asked if Alaska 20/20 works with First Alaskans.

MR. OSTERKAMP said yes; for instance Alaska 20/20 would be working with First Alaskans to develop performance measures for rural economic development.

CHAIR THERRIAULT recessed the meeting to the call of the Chair at [4:14:52 PM](#). [The Senate State Affairs Committee reconvened at 9:00 a.m. March 6, 2006.]