

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE STANDING COMMITTEE

January 27, 2005

1:31 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Con Bunde, Chair
Senator Ralph Seekins, Vice Chair
Senator Johnny Ellis
Senator Ben Stevens

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Bettye Davis

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

SENATE BILL NO. 2

"An Act relating to prerequisites for obtaining and recording a lien for payment of the contract price for labor or materials supplied for the construction, alteration, or repair of a building or improvement."

SCHEDULED BUT NOT HEARD

SENATE BILL NO. 42

"An Act extending the reporting date for and the termination date of the Task Force on Naturopathic Scope of Practice; and providing for an effective date."

MOVED SB 42 OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: SB 42

SHORT TITLE: NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE TASK FORCE

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(s) SEEKINS

01/11/05	(S)	PREFILE RELEASED 01/07/05
01/11/05	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/11/05	(S)	L&C, FIN
01/27/05	(S)	L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 211

WITNESS REGISTER

Mr. Joseph Michel
Staff to Senator Seekins
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

POSITION STATEMENT: Commented on SB 42 for the sponsor.

Ms. Kathleen Sweeney, ND
Douglas AK

POSITION STATEMENT: Present for SB 42.

ACTION NARRATIVE

CHAIR CON BUNDE called the Senate Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting to order at [1:31:39 PM](#). Senators Ellis, Stevens, Seekins and Chair Bunde were present. Senator Bettye Davis was absent.

^#SB42

SB 42-NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE TASK FORCE

CHAIR CON BUNDE announce SB 42 to be up for consideration.

[1:32:48 PM](#)

MR. JOSEPH MICHEL, staff to Senator Seekins, said SB 42 extends the termination date of the Naturopathic Task Force. It is a one-year extension of Senate Bill 306 that was passed last year establishing the task force.

[1:33:11 PM](#)

MR. MICHEL listed the issues the task force was charged with studying:

1. the comparable education and training levels of naturopaths versus medical doctors;
2. the use of legend [potentially addictive drugs] and prescription drugs by naturopaths with respect to their scope of practice;
3. the non-pharmacological treatments by naturopaths including minor surgery;
4. collaborative protocols and agreements between naturopaths and medical doctors;
5. joint liability issues between collaborating practitioners;
and
6. other issues of relevance.

[1:33:40 PM](#)

He said the task force has nine members who met over the interim, but didn't have enough time to deal with all the issues. The reporting date is changed from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2005 and the termination date is changed from February 1, 2005 to February 1, 2006.

CHAIR BUNDE asked if there was a cost to running the task force.

MR. MICHEL replied no.

[1:34:18 PM](#)

CHAIR BUNDE noted that Kathleen Sweeney, ND was present as an observer.

[1:34:37 PM](#)

SENATOR SEEKINS explained that the reason for the late start is because members were not appointed until late in the year and the subject is important and deserves adequate discussion among all the various players. Educational levels are being discussed while comparing curriculums and practical experience before a recommendation can be made.

[1:35:44 PM](#)

CHAIR BUNDE humorously said he was breaking his rule of not passing things out in the first hearing, because discussion of the extension was dealt with adequately in one hearing.

SENATOR SEEKINS moved to pass SB 42 from committee with individual recommendations and no fiscal notes. Senators Stevens, Ellis, Seekins and Chair Bunde voted yea; and SB 42 passed from committee. There being no further business to come before the committee, he adjourned the meeting at [1:37:32 PM](#).

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