

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE

February 2, 2006

3:34 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Gene Therriault, Chair
Senator Thomas Wagoner, Vice Chair
Senator Charlie Huggins
Senator Bettye Davis
Senator Kim Elton

MEMBERS ABSENT

All members present

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Confirmation: Scott Nordstrand - Department of Administration
Commissioner Designee

HEARING POSTPONED TO 2/07/06

SENATE BILL NO. 224

"An Act establishing Older Alaskans' Day."

MOVED SB 224 OUT OF COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL NO. 189

"An Act relating to issuance of identification cards and to
issuance of driver's licenses."

HEARD AND HELD

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: SB 224

SHORT TITLE: OLDER ALASKANS' DAY

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(s) STEVENS G

01/09/06	(S)	PREFILE RELEASED 1/6/06
01/09/06	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/09/06	(S)	STA
02/02/06	(S)	STA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 211

BILL: SB 189

SHORT TITLE: REQUIREMENTS FOR DRIVER'S LICENSE/I.D.

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(s) HUGGINS

04/27/05 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
04/27/05 (S) STA, JUD
05/03/05 (S) STA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 211
05/03/05 (S) <Above Bill Hearing Canceled>
02/02/06 (S) STA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 211

WITNESS REGISTER

Senator Gary Stevens
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
POSITION STATEMENT: Sponsor of SB 224

Pat Branson
Senior Citizens of Kodiak
Kodiak, AK
POSITION STATEMENT: Supported SB 224

Marie Darlin, AARP Coordinator
Capital City Task Force
Juneau, AK
POSITION STATEMENT: Supported SB 224

Deborah Grundmann, Staff
Senator Huggins
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
POSITION STATEMENT: Introduced SB 189 for the sponsor

Duane Bannock, Director
Division of Motor Vehicles
Department of Administration
PO Box 110200
Juneau, AK 99811-0200
POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions related to SB 189

ACTION NARRATIVE

CHAIR GENE THERRIAULT called the Senate State Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at [3:34:23 PM](#). Present were Senators Kim Elton, Thomas Wagoner, Charlie Huggins, Bettye Davis, and Chair Gene Therriault.

He announced that the confirmation hearing for Administration Commissioner Designee, Scott Nordstrand is postponed until the following Tuesday.

SB 224-OLDER ALASKANS' DAY

[3:34:59 PM](#)

CHAIR THERRIault announced SB 224 to be up for consideration.

SENATOR GARY STEVENS paraphrased the sponsor statement.

Alaska's seniors are one of the nation's fastest growing senior populations, comprising 20 percent of the state's population. Each year, Alaskans 60 years of age and older contribute millions of dollars to Alaska's economy. Through their involvement with various organizations, service clubs and the like, they also provide thousands of hours of volunteer work through various organizations for the betterment of their communities and state. Given the numerous and important contributions Alaska's seniors make to our state, it is a fitting honor that a day be set aside to recognize these accomplishments.

If passed into law, SB 224 will designate the second Wednesday of September as "Older Alaskans' Day". Older Alaskan's' Day will be an appropriate addition to National Senior Center Week celebrations, which fall during the second full week of September starting in 2007, and will be close to Grandparents' Day.

He reported that the Alaska Commission on Aging and AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) endorse the bill.

CHAIR THERRIault noted the bill packet contains resolutions and letters of support from a variety of organizations.

PAT BRANSON, Senior Citizens of Kodiak, testified via teleconference in support of SB 224.

MARIE DARLIN, AARP Coordinator, Capital City Task Force, stated support for SB 224.

[3:40:03 PM](#)

CHAIR THERRIault noted there was no further testimony and asked for the will of the committee.

SENATOR THOMAS WAGONER motioned to report SB 224 and attached zero fiscal note from committee with individual recommendations.

CHAIR THERRIAULT announced that without objection, it was so ordered.

SB 189-REQUIREMENTS FOR DRIVER'S LICENSE/I.D.

[3:41:03 PM](#)

CHAIR THERRIAULT announced SB 189 to be up for consideration.

SENATOR HUGGINS, Sponsor of SB 189, explained that the bill is an effort to prevent individuals who are in the US illegally from obtaining an Alaska driver's license. It would also reinforce implementation of the federal Real ID Act.

DEBORAH GRUNDMANN, Staff to Senator Huggins, drew attention to the proposed work draft committee substitute (CS) 24-LS0920\L.

CHAIR THERRIAULT asked for a motion.

SENATOR HUGGINS motioned to adopt the \L version of SB 189 as the working document. There was no objection.

MS. GRUNDMANN paraphrased the sponsor statement.

On May 11, 2005 President Bush signed into law the Real ID Act. Provisions of this legislation improved security for drivers' licenses and personal identification cards as well as set uniform standards for state driver's licenses and identification cards. CSSB 189 is designed to bring Alaska into compliance with two components of the new federal, Real ID Act.

One, all driver's licenses and ID card applicants must be either US citizens or be able to establish their legal presence. And those persons with a time limited legal status may not receive a driver's license or ID card with an expiration date later than the allowable length of stay.

She further explained that if a non-citizen's stay is indefinite, the expiration date of the license is one year from the date of issue and that Alaska has until May 11, 2008 to come into compliance with the federal act.

MS. GRUNDMANN introduced Duane Bannock.

CHAIR THERRIAULT informed committee members that he didn't intend to take final action on the bill that day.

[3:44:05 PM](#)

DUANE BANNOCK, Director, Division of Motor Vehicles, Department of Administration, stated that he was pleased to report that Alaska is close to 100 percent compliance with the federal Real ID Act.

He reiterated Ms. Grundmann's explanation of the bill, which clarifies in statute that to receive an Alaska driver's license or state ID card the applicant must provide proof that he/she is in the US legally. The second part of the bill addresses the length of time the driver's license or ID is valid. Under current law licenses are valid for five years and no consideration is given to the fact that some visas may be valid for less than that length of time. SB 189 proposes that the expiration date for the driver's license or ID may not extend beyond the time the individual may legally remain in the US.

[3:48:40 PM](#)

SENATOR ELTON questioned whether he would be required to prove he's a US resident when his license is due for renewal.

MR. BANNOCK replied, "That is a correct assumption of the bill."

SENATOR ELTON asked what kind of identification would be required.

MR. BANNOCK responded the most common primary pieces of identification are the birth certificate and the Social Security card. A list of other valid documents is currently being developed.

SENATOR ELTON asked if it's true that an illegal Social Security card is easy to obtain.

MR. BANNOCK responded although not the most secure identification, DMV uses Social Security cards as a secondary identifier. Thru regulation DMV requires use of one primary identifier and one secondary identifier or two primary identifiers.

SENATOR ELTON asked for clarification that he would need two documents.

MR. BANNOCK said that's correct.

SENATOR ELTON questioned whether the bill codifies in statute what is current practice and if that's true, how long it has been the practice.

MR. BANNOCK said by regulation DMV has been requiring the identification outlined above, but he didn't know how long that has been the practice.

SENATOR ELTON remarked he doesn't remember ever showing the required documents when he renewed his license.

MS. GRUNDMANN referenced the bill and explained that if the driver's license hasn't expired, been canceled, suspended or revoked the presumption is that you have met the identification standard.

SENATOR ELTON asked whether that applies to the grace period when a license has expired.

MR. BANNOCK answered the grace period is specific to the testing requirements. He added that under the provisions of this bill DMV would no longer take another state's license as proof that the applicant is in the US legally.

[3:55:55 PM](#)

CHAIR THERRIALT closed public testimony and announced he would hold SB 189 in committee.

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Therriault adjourned the meeting at [3:56:00 PM](#).