

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES**

March 28, 2011

10:34 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Representative Mike Chenault, Chair  
Representative Alan Austerman, Vice Chair  
Representative Craig Johnson  
Representative Bill Stoltze  
Representative Bill Thomas  
Representative Beth Kerttula  
Representative Berta Gardner

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

All members present

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES REPORT

- ADVANCED

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

No previous action to record

**WITNESS REGISTER**

No witnesses to record

**ACTION NARRATIVE**

[10:34:42 AM](#)

**CHAIR MIKE CHENAULT** called the House Committee on Committees meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. Representatives Austerman, Johnson, Stoltze, Thomas, Kerttula, Gardner, and Chenault were present at the call to order.

**Committee on Committees Report**

[10:34:43 AM](#)

CHAIR CHENAULT explained that the purpose of the meeting is to change the membership of the House Finance Committee by

replacing Representative Neuman, who is away on personal business, with Representative Hawker, the current alternate, and filling the vacant alternate position with Representative Chenault.

[10:35:40 AM](#)

CHAIR CHENAULT further explained that there were concerns regarding alternates on committees, which resulted in an opinion from Legislative Legal and Research Services per the request of Representative Doogan. Chair Chenault noted that in previous years committees have had alternates, particularly when there were members with health issues or other issues that caused their absence. In fact, Chair Chenault recalled sitting on the House Finance Committee as an alternate. Although no specific votes were taken the day [March 9, 2009] he served as an alternate, the record reflects that amendments were accepted and legislation was moved. Chair Chenault opined that the ability to utilize alternates is important. The opinion from Legislative Legal and Research Services points out that both the House Committee on Committees approved alternates on committees and the full House approved the House Committee on Committees report. Therefore, the [use of alternates on committees] seems legal, particularly since the statute is silent on the matter.

[10:37:51 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE STOLTZE said that it's troubling to read about the legislature's motives in the press, particularly since conversations would be more productive.

[10:38:34 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE KERTTULA remarked that she was glad the committee is being clear. She noted that although she sits on the House Committee on Committees that approved [committee membership with alternates], she didn't know the rule or the question about the rule.

REPRESENTATIVE STOLTZE pointed out that legislators are dealing with some very legitimate differences of opinion on contentious issues. Therefore, how legislators treat each other will be important through the process.

[10:39:24 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON moved to advance the House Committee on Committees report to the full body for consideration. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

10:39:41 AM

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the committee, the House Committee on Committees meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.