

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE

March 8, 2011

3:35 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Donald Olson, Chair
Senator Thomas Wagoner
Senator Albert Kookesh
Senator Linda Menard
Senator Johnny Ellis

MEMBERS ABSENT

All members present

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HOUSE BILL NO. 65

"An Act making regional Native housing authorities eligible to receive grants through the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation from the senior citizens housing development fund."

- HEARD & HELD

SENATE BILL NO. 94

"An Act adding a second verse to the official Alaska state song."

- MOVED SB 94 OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HB 65

SHORT TITLE: SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING DEV. FUND GRANTS

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) EDGMON, HERRON, FOSTER, JOULE

01/18/11	(H)	PREFILE RELEASED 1/7/11
01/18/11	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/18/11	(H)	CRA, FIN
02/01/11	(H)	CRA AT 8:00 AM BARNES 124
02/01/11	(H)	Heard & Held
02/01/11	(H)	MINUTE(CRA)
02/03/11	(H)	CRA AT 8:00 AM BARNES 124
02/03/11	(H)	Moved Out of Committee
02/03/11	(H)	MINUTE(CRA)

02/04/11 (H) CRA RPT 7DP
 02/04/11 (H) DP: AUSTERMAN, DICK, SADDLER, FOSTER,
 GARDNER, CISSNA, MUNOZ
 02/16/11 (H) FIN AT 1:30 PM HOUSE FINANCE 519
 02/16/11 (H) Moved Out of Committee
 02/16/11 (H) MINUTE(FIN)
 02/18/11 (H) FIN RPT 11DP
 02/18/11 (H) DP: FAIRCLOUGH, T.WILSON, GUTTENBERG,
 GARA, JOULE, EDGMON, NEUMAN, DOOGAN,
 02/18/11 (H) COSTELLO, STOLTZE, THOMAS
 02/23/11 (H) TRANSMITTED TO (S)
 02/23/11 (H) VERSION: HB 65
 02/24/11 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
 02/24/11 (S) CRA, FIN
 03/08/11 (S) CRA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

BILL: SB 94

SHORT TITLE: SECOND VERSE OF ALASKA'S STATE SONG
 SPONSOR(S): SENATOR(S) DAVIS

02/25/11 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
 02/25/11 (S) CRA, STA
 03/08/11 (S) CRA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

WITNESS REGISTER

REPRESENTATIVE BRYCE EDGMON
 Alaska State Legislature
 Juneau, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Sponsor of HB 65.

ELAINE MELLO, Recipient Project Manager
 Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC)
 Anchorage, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions regarding HB 65.

SENATOR BETTYE DAVIS
 Alaska State Legislature
 Juneau, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Sponsor of SB 94.

PAMELA MARSCH, Staff
 Senator Bettye Davis
 Alaska State Legislature
 Juneau, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Read the sponsor statement for SB 94.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[3:35:41 PM](#)

CHAIR DONALD OLSON called the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Menard, Wagoner, Kookesh and Chair Olson. Senator Ellis arrived shortly thereafter.

HB 65-SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING DEV. FUND GRANTS

[3:36:18 PM](#)

CHAIR OLSON announced the consideration of HB 65.

[3:36:25 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE BRYCE EDGMON, sponsor of HB 65, said this bill adds the housing authorities into Title 18 [AS 18.55.996] to directly participate in the Senior Citizens Housing Development Fund (SCHDF) grants through the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC). This grant has, in the past, been available to municipalities and not-for-profit corporations. HB 65 speeds up the ability for AHFC to work with the housing authorities to build senior housing units. He noted that the SCHDF grant is in the budget for \$4.5 million. HB 65 passed the House 38 to 0 and there was no opposition to the bill in the House Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee or the House Finance Standing Committee. The bill is also supported by AHFC, the housing authorities, the Alaska Commission on Aging, and the Association of American Retired Persons. He added that HB 65 comes with a zero fiscal note.

CHAIR OLSON asked what the housing authorities have been doing in the mean time in order to address the senior housing issue.

REPRESENTATIVE EDGMON answered that of the 14 housing authorities, seven have gone through the process of forming not-for-profit corporations in order to participate in this loan program. HB 65 allows these additional seven housing authorities to be directly eligible for the program. He said, in the mean time, the housing authorities have been building senior housing units using a range of funds, including the Denali Commission, the United States Department of Agriculture, the Native American Housing Assistance and the Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA), and others. This bill provides a more direct conduit between the housing authorities and the housing grant through AHFC.

CHAIR OLSON asked what percentage of the funding for the grant are state moneys and what percentage are federal moneys.

[3:40:21 PM](#)

ELAINE MELLO, Recipient Project Manager, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC), replied that this depends on the project. She explained that the amount varies depending on how the particular sponsor decides to structure the funding.

CHAIR OLSON asked what type of inhibition caused HB 65 to be drawn up and put before the legislature.

MS. MELO replied that AHFC is trying to make it as easy as possible for the regional housing authorities to access the SCHDF. She explained that in the past these housing authorities have been able to do this through developing either a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4). This can be a fairly long and arduous process and is an extra step to take in order to access this money.

[3:42:58 PM](#)

CHAIR OLSON announced he would hold HB 65 in committee.

SB 94-SECOND VERSE OF ALASKA'S STATE SONG

[3:43:13 PM](#)

CHAIR OLSON announced the consideration of SB 94.

[3:43:27 PM](#)

SENATOR BETTYE DAVIS, sponsor of SB 94, said this bill has come before the Senate in previous years. She said that bringing SB 94 forward again is important because the second stanza of the Alaska's Flag Song would identify the Native community.

[3:44:32 PM](#)

PAMELA MARSCH, Staff to Bettye Senator Davis, sponsor of SB 94, said this bill would add a second verse to the Alaska's Flag Song. It is a beautiful song that would recognize the Alaska Natives and Benny Benson, who designed the state flag.

She read the following from the sponsor statement:

Similar bills have been introduced in the past. Last year the Alaska's Flag Song was performed with both versus as the Senate gavelled in on the first day of session. Also, last year, the Senator from District G introduced SB 43. It passed the Senate, but stalled in the House.

This year is the year to join me in supporting a long overdue addition of the second verse to the Alaska's Flag Song. By passing this bill you will be recognizing history, our progress as a state and our first people.

CHAIR OLSON asked how this bill is different than the previous bills brought to the legislature.

SENATOR DAVIS replied that SB 94 is no different than the previous bills that have been brought forward. She explained that the bill was stalled in the House last year because it had an indeterminate fiscal note. In the past it has had a zero fiscal note. She noted that at this point she has received only positive feedback on the SB 94.

CHAIR OLSON asked how she plans to get it through the other body.

SENATOR DAVIS replied by trying to get the bill over to the House in time for plenty of opportunity for debate.

CHAIR OLSON asked if this bill passed the Senate unanimously last year.

SENATOR DAVIS replied that everyone present voted for the bill.

[3:48:05 PM](#)

At ease from 3:48:05 p.m. to 3:48:19 p.m.

[3:48:27 PM](#)

SENATOR WAGONER moved to report SB 94 from the committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s). There being no objections, SB 94 moved from committee.

[3:48:54 PM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Olson adjourned the meeting at 3:48 p.m.