

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE

March 29, 2011

3:34 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Johnny Ellis

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

PRESENTATION: Price of Oil's Impact to State and Municipal Governments

- Removed from Agenda

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 130(L&C)

"An Act relating to municipal building code requirements for fire sprinkler systems in certain residential buildings."

- MOVED CSHB 130(L&C) OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HB 130

SHORT TITLE: RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

SPONSOR(S): LABOR & COMMERCE

01/28/11	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/28/11	(H)	CRA, L&C
02/08/11	(H)	CRA AT 8:00 AM BARNES 124
02/08/11	(H)	Moved Out of Committee
02/08/11	(H)	MINUTE(CRA)
02/09/11	(H)	CRA RPT 6DP
02/09/11	(H)	DP: AUSTERMAN, CISSNA, DICK, FOSTER, GARDNER, MUNOZ
02/14/11	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
02/14/11	(H)	Moved CSHB 130(L&C) Out of Committee
02/14/11	(H)	MINUTE(L&C)
02/16/11	(H)	L&C RPT CS(L&C) NT 7DP

02/16/11 (H) DP: THOMPSON, SADDLER, JOHNSON, HOLMES,
SEATON, MILLER, OLSON
03/11/11 (H) TRANSMITTED TO (S)
03/11/11 (H) VERSION: CSHB 130(L&C)
03/14/11 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
03/14/11 (S) CRA, L&C
03/22/11 (S) CRA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
03/22/11 (S) Scheduled But Not Heard
03/29/11 (S) CRA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

WITNESS REGISTER

REPRESENTATIVE KURT OLSON
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: As co-chair of the House Labor and Commerce Committee, sponsor of HB 130, explained the bill and answered questions of the committee.

JEFF TUCKER, President
Alaska Fire Chiefs Association
North Pole, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 130.

PAUL MICHELSON, Treasurer
Board of Directors
Alaska State Home Building Association
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 130.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[3:34:46 PM](#)

CHAIR DONALD OLSON called the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Wagoner, Kookesh, Menard, and Chair Olson.

HB 130-RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

[3:35:04 PM](#)

CHAIR OLSON announced the consideration of HB 130. [CSHB 130(L&C), version B, was before the committee.]

[3:35:30 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE KURT OLSON, speaking as the co-chair of the House Labor and Commerce Committee, sponsor of HB 130, said this bill made its way through both the Senate and House during the

previous session [the 26th Legislature], but did not pass in time. He explained that the bulk of the work was done last year and this year there has been no opposition. HB 130 states that a municipality can change a building code to require sprinklers in all new construction, but an expanded hearing process is required first. He explained that this will allow people in the community to have some input before it is mandated. He noted that it took numerous meeting during the previous session to get a concession from the various interest groups including: the Alaska Municipal League, the Realtors Association, the Home Builders Association, and the Fire Chief's Association. He said that, amongst these individuals and groups, there is no opposition this year. He urged the committee to consider this bill.

[3:37:37 PM](#)

CHAIR OLSON said that installing a sprinkler system is obviously going to cost more money. He asked whether there has been concern or opposition to the bill from home buyers.

REPRESENTATIVE OLSON replied that retro-fitting a sprinkler system would have a significant cost. However, HB 130 addresses the adoption of the codes for a new sprinkler system. He said he believes that in communities where there is opposition the building code would probably not be adopted.

CHAIR OLSON said that when building a building, requiring the installation of a sprinkler system would cost several thousand dollars more for construction. He asked why wouldn't those individuals who are going to have to pay more be concerned about the cost.

REPRESENTATIVE OLSON replied that the bill would only apply to cities, he believes. He noted that if there was a move to adopt the building requirement there would be a tremendous amount of public testimony first.

CHAIR OLSON asked how this bill would affect boroughs who adopt these codes in comparison to a municipality.

REPRESENTATIVE OLSON replied that the same noticing requirements would be required.

CHAIR OLSON asked why the bill only addresses residential buildings and not commercial buildings.

SENATOR KOOKESH replied that commercial buildings already require sprinkler systems.

[3:40:24 PM](#)

JEFF TUCKER, President, Alaska Fire Chiefs Association, testified in support of HB 130.

[3:40:58 PM](#)

PAUL MICHELSON, Treasurer, Board of Directors, Alaska State Home Building Association, testified in support of HB 130. He said that this bill is a compromise but the association believes that it will work.

[3:42:18 PM](#)

SENATOR MENARD moved to report CSHB 130(L&C), version B, from the committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s). There being no objection, CSHB 130(L&C) moved from the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee.

[3:43:11 PM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Olson adjourned the meeting at 3:43 p.m.