

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
April 7, 2012
2:35 p.m.

[2:35:49 PM](#)

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Stedman called the Senate Finance Committee meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Lyman Hoffman, Co-Chair
Senator Bert Stedman, Co-Chair
Senator Lesil McGuire, Vice-Chair
Senator Johnny Ellis
Senator Dennis Egan
Senator Donny Olson
Senator Joe Thomas

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ALSO PRESENT

Kaci Schroeder-Hotch, Staff, Representative Bill Thomas;
Weston Eiler, Staff, Senator Bert Stedman.

SUMMARY

SB 160 BUDGET: CAPITAL

SB 160 was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

CSHB 250(ENE) EXTEND RENEWABLE ENERGY GRANT FUND

SCS CSHB 250(FIN) was REPORTED out of committee with a "do pass" recommendation and with a previously published fiscal impact note: FN2(DCCED).

#hb250

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 250(ENE)

"An Act relating to the renewable energy grant fund and recommendation program; and providing for an effective date."

[2:36:59 PM](#)

Co-Chair Hoffman MOVED to ADOPT the proposed committee substitute for HB 250, Work Draft 27-LS1060\X (Nauman, 3/29/12) as a working document.

[2:37:10 PM](#)

Co-Chair Stedman OBJECTED for the purpose of discussion. He explained that the new committee substitute extended the sunset date to 2023 instead of 2018 and that it added two more seats on the advisory committee. One of the additional members would be from the Senate, while another would be from the House.

[2:37:26 PM](#)

Co-Chair Stedman REMOVED his OBJECTION. There being NO FURTHER OBJECTION, Work Draft 27-LS1060\X was ADOPTED.

[2:37:34 PM](#)

KASEY SCHROEDER-HOTCH, STAFF, REPRESENTATIVE BILL THOMAS, explained that the legislation extended the Renewable Energy Grant Fund for another 10 years and added two seats on the Renewable Energy Advisory Committee. She furthered that the advisory committee worked with the Alaska Energy Authority to evaluate grant programs for the fund.

[2:38:23 PM](#)

Co-Chair Stedman discussed the fiscal note in the packet from the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development in the amount of \$2.155 million and pointed out that funding for the note was already included in the governor's FY 13 operating budget.

[2:38:44 PM](#)

Co-Chair Hoffman MOVED to report SCS CSHB 250(FIN) out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal note. There being NO OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

SCS CSHB 250(FIN) was REPORTED out of committee with a "do pass" recommendation and with a previously published fiscal impact note: FN2(DCCED).

[2:39:20 PM](#)

RECESSED

[8:58:53 PM](#)

RECONVENED

#sb160

SENATE BILL NO. 160

"An Act making and amending appropriations, including capital appropriations and other appropriations; making appropriations to capitalize funds; and providing for an effective date."

[8:59:16 PM](#)

Co-Chair Stedman indicated that this was the sixteenth meeting on the capital budget. He furthered that the Senate Finance Committee had conducted a thorough public review of the governor's proposed budget and that upwards of 180 Alaskan's had called in to testify on the budget.

[8:59:49 PM](#)

Senator Ellis MOVED to ADOPT the proposed committee substitute for SB 160, Work Draft 27-GS2600\D (Martin, 4/7/12) as a working document.

[8:59:58 PM](#)

Co-Chair Stedman OBJECTED for the purpose of discussion.

[9:00:22 PM](#)

AT EASE

[9:01:21 PM](#)

RECONVENED

[9:01:28 PM](#)

Co-Chair Stedman stated that the Senate had worked with the House and the governor on the capital budget and that the Senate had placed over \$3 billion into savings in the operating budget before it had finalized the capital budget. He explained that the ratio of the Senate's savings to capital spending was \$3.1 billion to \$720 million and was roughly 4 to 1. He mentioned a transportation bond package was also being worked on and would be available for discussion in several days.

[9:01:55 PM](#)

WESTON EILER, STAFF, SENATOR BERT STEDMAN, presented a walkthrough of the bill and referenced two reports in the members' packets that summarized the budget by House district and agency. He stated that Section 1, which was the FY 13 capital budget, totaled \$2.57 billion; the section included legislative additions, as well as the governor's projects. Section 7 on page 117, which totaled \$56.1 million, reflected the governor's remaining FY 13 supplemental capital projects. Section 10 on page 122, which totaled \$43.5 million, represented the governor's remaining FY 12 supplemental operating items. He explained that Section 13 was the conglomerated language section and that it included fund transfers, capitalizations, legislative reappropriations, as well as supplemental and other language items. He noted that under the new committee substitute, \$720 million in capital projects would be added for a total of \$2.63 billion in capital spending. He pointed out that in Section 1 the Senate had added 50 percent funding for the Undergraduate Engineering Expansion Initiative for new facilities at the University of Alaska's Anchorage and Fairbanks campuses, \$29 million in funding for the State Library Archives Museum (SLAM) building in Juneau, as well as several other transportation and infrastructure projects.

[9:04:40 PM](#)

Co-Chair Stedman REMOVED his OBJECTION. There being NO FURTHER OBJECTION, Work Draft 27-GS2600\D was ADOPTED.

Co-Chair Stedman directed members to look over the new committee substitute and bring any concerns to his attention.

#

ADJOURNMENT

[9:05:45 PM](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.