

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**SENATE STATE AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE**

April 12, 2011

9:07 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Senator Bill Wielechowski, Chair  
Senator Joe Paskvan, Vice Chair  
Senator Albert Kookesh  
Senator Kevin Meyer  
Senator Cathy Giessel

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

All members present

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

Designating August 18, 2011, as Walter J. Hickel Day of the Arctic.

- MOVED SCR 11 OUT OF COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 101(STA)

"An Act establishing the fourth Saturday of July each year as Ted Stevens Day."

- MOVED CSHB 101(STA) OUT OF COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 19

"An Act relating to special request registration plates; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED SCS CSHB 19(STA) OUT OF COMMITTEE

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: SCR 11

SHORT TITLE: WALTER HICKEL DAY OF THE ARCTIC

SPONSOR(S): SENATOR(S) FRENCH

04/01/11	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
04/01/11	(S)	STA
04/12/11	(S)	STA AT 9:00 AM BUTROVICH 205

BILL: HB 101

SHORT TITLE: TED STEVENS DAY

SPONSOR(s): RULES

01/18/11 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
01/18/11 (H) STA  
03/29/11 (H) STA RPT CS(STA) NT 7DP  
03/29/11 (H) DP: PETERSEN, SEATON, GRUENBERG,  
KELLER, P.WILSON, JOHANSEN, LYNN  
03/29/11 (H) STA AT 8:00 AM CAPITOL 106  
03/29/11 (H) Moved CSHB 101(STA) Out of Committee  
03/29/11 (H) MINUTE(STA)  
03/30/11 (H) TRANSMITTED TO (S)  
03/30/11 (H) VERSION: CSHB 101(STA)  
04/01/11 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
04/01/11 (S) STA  
04/12/11 (S) STA AT 9:00 AM BUTROVICH 205

BILL: HB 19

SHORT TITLE: SPECIAL REQUEST LICENSE PLATES

SPONSOR(s): LYNN, KELLER, GATTO

01/18/11 (H) PREFILE RELEASED 1/7/11  
01/18/11 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
01/18/11 (H) STA, FIN  
02/08/11 (H) STA AT 8:00 AM CAPITOL 106  
02/08/11 (H) Moved Out of Committee  
02/08/11 (H) MINUTE(STA)  
02/09/11 (H) STA RPT 7DP  
02/09/11 (H) DP: JOHANSEN, P.WILSON, KELLER,  
GRUENBERG, SEATON, PETERSEN, LYNN  
02/22/11 (H) FIN AT 1:30 PM HOUSE FINANCE 519  
02/22/11 (H) <Bill Held Over to 2/24/11>  
02/24/11 (H) FIN AT 1:30 PM HOUSE FINANCE 519  
02/24/11 (H) Moved Out of Committee  
02/24/11 (H) MINUTE(FIN)  
02/25/11 (H) FIN RPT 8DP 1NR  
02/25/11 (H) DP: FAIRCLOUGH, GARA, T.WILSON,  
GUTTENBERG, NEUMAN, DOOGAN, STOLTZE,  
THOMAS  
02/25/11 (H) NR: COSTELLO  
03/23/11 (H) TRANSMITTED TO (S)  
03/23/11 (H) VERSION: HB 19  
03/25/11 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
03/25/11 (S) STA, TRA  
04/12/11 (S) STA AT 9:00 AM BUTROVICH 205

## **WITNESS REGISTER**

SENATOR HOLLIS FRENCH  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Sponsor of SCR 11.

ERIN SHINE, Staff to Representative Craig Johnson  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Presented HB 101 for Representative Craig Johnson, the sponsor.

ROSITA WORL, PhD, President  
Sealaska Heritage Institute  
Juneau, AK

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of HB 101.

THOMAS REIKER, Staff to Representative Bob Lynn  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Presented HB 19 for Representative Bob Lynn, the Sponsor.

MICHELLE SYDEMAN, Staff to Senator Bill Wielechowski  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Explained changes in proposed SCS for HB 101.

## **ACTION NARRATIVE**

[9:07:10 AM](#)

**CHAIR BILL WIELECHOWSKI** called the Senate State Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Giessel, Meyer, Kookesh, Paskvan, and Chair Wielechowski.

### **SCR 11-WALTER HICKEL DAY OF THE ARCTIC**

[9:07:38 AM](#)

**CHAIR WIELECHOWSKI** announced the first order of business would be SCR 11, which honors the late Governor Walter J. Hickel by establishing a day in his honor.

**SENATOR HOLLIS FRENCH**, sponsor of SCR 11, said he could probably speak for hours about the late Walter Hickel. His

accomplishments were numerous in many arenas, and he changed the landscape of Alaska. Senator French said he was thrilled to present the resolution; Walter Hickel was one of his constituents, and they attended the same church. He noted a book by Governor Hickel, "Crisis in the Commons" is a great document about managing common areas such as the Arctic. He said Governor Hickel was a great Alaskan. Passage of SCR 11 would establish August 18, 2011, as Walter J. Hickel Day of the Arctic.

CHAIR WIELECHOWSKI noted that many people in the legislature have been influenced by former Governor Hickel.

[9:09:30 AM](#)

CHAIR WIELECHOWSKI opened and closed public testimony.

SENATOR PASKVAN moved to report SCR 11 from committee with individual recommendations and attached zero fiscal note. Without objection, SCR 11 from the Senate State Affairs Standing Committee.

[9:10:21 AM](#)

At-ease.

#### **HB 101-TED STEVENS DAY**

[9:12:34 AM](#)

CHAIR WIELECHOWSKI announced the next order of business would be HB 101, which would establish the fourth Saturday of each July as Ted Stevens Day. [CSHB 101(STA) was before the committee.]

[9:12:56 AM](#)

ERIN SHINE, staff to Representative Craig Johnson, sponsor of HB 101, said that Ted Stevens dedicated his life to the state of Alaska. The purpose of HB 101 is to establish Ted Stevens Day each year in Alaska. At the request of his family, the original date of November 18 was changed to the fourth Saturday in July each year, so that Alaskans could observe the day in outdoor activities, as Senator Stevens loved to do.

CHAIR WIELECHOWSKI opened public testimony.

[9:14:55 AM](#)

ROSITA WORL, PhD., President, Sealaska Heritage Institute, said she had the pleasure of working with Senator Stevens through Sealaska and with the Alaska Federation of Natives. She said it is important to note some of the wonderful things he did, "He was our uncle but he was also our brother." He was given a

Tlingit name, "The Bear Who Went Up Into Space." She noted he was a member of the same clan as Senator Kookesh. The name was given after he had proven himself, not only to the Native people but to the state of Alaska. Beyond bringing money into the state, he was a moral and principled man.

He fought for the settlement of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). All Alaskans today benefit from that act; ANCSA has been an economic engine for Alaska. It was really important to Senator Stevens to make sure that Native children had this connection to their land. The First Peoples of Alaska are forever grateful to him for doing that. He wanted to make sure that the state would have management of its own fish and game; that is a task the state still needs to address.

If any Alaska Natives ever doubt the love he had for them, they only need look at the health care that he is responsible for. Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage is a tribute to what he wanted to do, to make certain the physical and social welfare of Alaska Natives were cared for. She said she wanted to say, on the record on behalf of Alaska Native people; Senator Stevens was a great man.

[9:19:03 AM](#)

SENATOR MEYER asked about the Tlingit name.

MS. WORL explained it was taken from a mask of a brown bear that had been placed in a spaceship by a young Tlingit man who was working for NASA; hence it was called "The Brown Bear Who Went Up Into Space." The mask hangs in the Sealaska Building today.

SENATOR MEYER asked if she knew the Tlingit pronunciation.

MS. WORL answered she did not remember, but she could get it.

SENATOR KOOKESH observed that she could have said any words in Tlingit and the committee would have accepted it.

CHAIR WIELECHOWSKI said that as he travels around the state for hearings, it is obvious that every place in Alaska, down to the smallest village, has been positively impacted by Senator Stevens.

CHAIR WIELECHOWSKI noted a letter from Lilly Stevens Becker, Senator Stevens' youngest daughter, was in the record.

CHAIR WIELECHOWSKI closed public testimony and asked the will of the committee.

[9:20:49 AM](#)

SENATOR PASKVAN moved to report CS for HB 101, version I, from committee with individual recommendations and attached zero fiscal note.

CHAIR WIELECHOWSKI announced that without objection, CSHB 101(STA) moved from the Senate State Affairs Standing Committee.

[9:22:08 AM](#)

At-ease.

### **HB 19-SPECIAL REQUEST LICENSE PLATES**

[9:26:29 AM](#)

CHAIR WIELECHOWSKI announced the next order of business would be HB 19, authorizing the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to create a special request license plate incorporating the phrase, "In God We Trust."

[9:26:51 AM](#)

THOMAS REIKER, staff to Representative Bob Lynn, said the idea for these plates came when Senator Lynn visited Indiana and saw many "In God We Trust" license plates. His office asked the DMV to come up with a format for the "In God We Trust" license plate for Alaska. This bill creates an Alaska special request "In God We Trust" license plate, which is available on request. It follows the typical procedure for issuance of special request license plates. The DMV does not oppose the bill; there is a zero fiscal note.

CHAIR WIELECHOWSKI noted there was a CS, version X.

[9:28:35 AM](#)

SENATOR PASKVAN moved to adopt the proposed Senate committee substitute (CS) for HB 19, labeled 27-LS0141\X, as the working document.

CHAIR WIELECHOWSKI objected for discussion purposes.

[9:29:18 AM](#)

MICHELLE SYDEMAN, staff to Senator Bill Wielechowski, said the version X Senate CS, incorporates several bills into the underlying HB 19. These are a license plate bill that honors Laotians who joined the United States Army during the Vietnam

War, which had support in the House State Affairs Committee; an NRA license plate bill that added a breast cancer awareness license plate; and SB 93 that authorizes the DMV to in the future set up a clear process to gauge public interest before proceeding with a specialty license plate. Whitney Brewster indicated that DMV would be comfortable administering that process. That bill passed the Senate unanimously and is now being considered in the House.

[9:31:28 AM](#)

CHAIR WIELECHOWSKI noted that when he presented SB 93 to the House State Affairs Committee he learned that that committee did the same thing, except they also incorporated a bill for Choose Life plates and added a three-year sunset provision. He did not support the sunset, because the idea is to remove license plates from the legislature's consideration. Another addition was a change in the minimum number of plates; this was dropped from 50 to 10 in the House version. He liked that idea.

CHAIR WIELECHOWSKI moved Conceptual Amendment 1.

#### CONCEPTUAL AMENDMENT 1

Page 3, line 4:  
Delete "50"  
Insert "25"

CHAIR WIELECHOWSKI found no discussion or objection and announced that Conceptual Amendment 1 was adopted.

[9:33:10 AM](#)

CHAIR WIELECHOWSKI asked if there were any other amendments.

SENATOR MEYER moved [Conceptual] Amendment 2, which would incorporate SB 16, the Choose Life license plate bill. The committee already heard his bill and compromised to include Pro Family Pro-choice to avoid potential concerns. He noted he preferred Senator Wielechowski's bill to the House version, but if there is to be an omnibus license plate bill he would like his to be included.

CHAIR WIELECHOWSKI said it's a fair way to go; incorporating both views is best to avoid a potential lawsuit.

CHAIR WIELECHOWSKI recapped Conceptual Amendment 2, would add Sections 1 and 2 of SB 16, version E, as well as any conforming

amendments. Finding no objection, he announced that Conceptual Amendment No. 2 was adopted.

Finding no further amendments or discussion, he asked the will of the committee.

[9:36:14 AM](#)

SENATOR PASKVAN moved to report Senate CS for HB 19, version [X] as amended, with individual recommendations and accompanying zero fiscal note.

CHAIR WIELECHOWSKI announced that without objection, SCS HB 19(STA) moved from the Senate State Affairs Standing Committee.

[9:37:09 AM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Wielechowski adjourned the meeting at 9:37 a.m.