

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE

April 1, 2014

1:31 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Dennis Egan, Chair
Senator Fred Dyson, Vice Chair
Senator Click Bishop
Senator Hollis French

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Anna Fairclough

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10(FIN)
Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska
creating a transportation infrastructure fund.

- MOVED CSHJR 10(FIN) OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HJR 10

SHORT TITLE: CONST. AM: TRANSPORTATION FUND

SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) P.WILSON

02/15/13	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/15/13	(H)	TRA, JUD, FIN
02/26/13	(H)	TRA AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124
02/26/13	(H)	Moved Out of Committee
02/26/13	(H)	MINUTE(TRA)
02/27/13	(H)	TRA RPT 6DP
02/27/13	(H)	DP: LYNN, FEIGE, ISAACSON, GATTIS, KREISS-TOMKINS, P.WILSON
04/03/13	(H)	JUD AT 1:00 PM CAPITOL 120
04/03/13	(H)	Heard & Held
04/03/13	(H)	MINUTE(JUD)
04/05/13	(H)	JUD AT 1:00 PM CAPITOL 120
04/05/13	(H)	Moved CSHJR 10(JUD) Out of Committee
04/05/13	(H)	MINUTE(JUD)
04/06/13	(H)	JUD RPT CS(JUD) 5DP 1DNP
04/06/13	(H)	DP: FOSTER, LEDOUX, LYNN, PRUITT, KELLER

04/06/13 (H) DNP: GRUENBERG
02/04/14 (H) FIN AT 8:30 AM HOUSE FINANCE 519
02/04/14 (H) Heard & Held
02/04/14 (H) MINUTE(FIN)
02/28/14 (H) FIN AT 1:30 PM HOUSE FINANCE 519
02/28/14 (H) Moved CSHJR 10(FIN) Out of Committee
02/28/14 (H) MINUTE(FIN)
03/03/14 (H) FIN RPT CS(FIN) 2DP 7NR
03/03/14 (H) DP: T.WILSON, MUNOZ
03/03/14 (H) NR: GUTTENBERG, GARA, NEUMAN, EDGMON,
HOLMES, COSTELLO, AUSTERMAN
03/13/14 (H) TRANSMITTED TO (S)
03/13/14 (H) VERSION: CSHJR 10(FIN)
03/14/14 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
03/14/14 (S) TRA, FIN
03/20/14 (S) TRA AT 1:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
03/20/14 (S) <Bill Hearing Canceled>
03/25/14 (S) TRA AT 1:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
03/25/14 (S) Scheduled But Not Heard
03/27/14 (S) TRA AT 1:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
03/27/14 (S) Heard & Held
03/27/14 (S) MINUTE(TRA)
04/01/14 (S) TRA AT 1:30 PM BUTROVICH 205

WITNESS REGISTER

REPRESENTATIVE PEGGY WILSON
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Sponsor of HJR 19.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[1:31:47 PM](#)

CHAIR DENNIS EGAN called the Senate Transportation Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators French, Bishop, and Chair Egan.

[1:32:20 PM](#)

SENATOR DYSON joined the committee.

HJR 10-CONST. AM: TRANSPORTATION FUND

[1:32:24 PM](#)

CHAIR EGAN announced HJR 10 to be up for consideration [CSHJR 10(FIN) was before the committee].

[1:32:37 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PEGGY WILSON, sponsor of HJR 10, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, said she didn't take changing the Constitution lightly, but this is reinstatement of a constitutional provision that was in place at statehood. She said she believes the voters deserve an opportunity to decide on reinstating a dedicated transportation fund.

[1:33:26 PM](#)

SENATOR FRENCH asked for some historical background.

REPRESENTATIVE P. WILSON explained that the fund actually was in the Constitution at one point. The delegates at the Constitutional Convention recognized that there wasn't enough money in the state budget for a lot of dedicated funds, but they did grandfather the two transportation funds in existence before statehood. One was for roads and one was for water and harbors. She noted that this resolution combines both into one transportation fund.

SENATOR FRENCH asked if those dedicated funds were in the Territorial statutes.

REPRESENTATIVE P. WILSON replied she wasn't sure, but it was added to the Constitution. It was eliminated when the state raised the gas tax from 3 cents to 5 cents because the current thinking was that it won't be needed because that extra 2 cents would bring in so much money.

SENATOR FRENCH summarized that it was in the Constitution, but it was taken out. He asked when that occurred.

REPRESENTATIVE P. WILSON answered that it was in 1963.

[1:35:22 PM](#)

SENATOR DYSON asked if the state underwent the rigorous process to amend the Constitution to take it out.

REPRESENTATIVE P. WILSON deferred to Mark Hickey who was the Commissioner of Transportation at the time. She recalled that the drafters thought the fund had to be eliminated in order to increase the tax.

SENATOR DYSON asked if the people voted on the change.

REPRESENTATIVE P. WILSON said no; it was done through legislation.

SENATOR FRENCH stated that he made himself a note to research the history of the constitutional provisions related to transportation. He added that he wouldn't hold the bill up.

SENATOR DYSON moved to report CS for HJR 10(FIN), version 28-LS0133\C, from committee to the next committee of referral with attached fiscal notes and individual recommendations. There were no objections and CSHJR 10(FIN) passed from the Senate Transportation Standing Committee.

[1:38:07 PM](#)

At ease from 1:38 to 1:39 p.m.

[1:39:56 PM](#)

CHAIR EGAN called meeting back to order and adjourned the Senate Transportation Standing Committee meeting at 1:40 p.m.