

29TH ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION  
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON HB72 and HB73  
April 15, 2015  
4:15 p.m.

4:15:11 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Neuman called the Conference Committee meeting on HB72 and HB73 to order at 4:15 p.m

MEMBERS PRESENT:

House:

Representative Mark Neuman, Chair  
Representative Steve Thompson  
Representative Les Gara

Senate:

Senator Pete Kelly, Vice-Chair  
Senator Anna MacKinnon  
Senator Donny Olson

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ALSO PRESENT:

David Teal, Director, Legislative Finance Division; fiscal analysts with the Office of Management and Budget and Legislative Finance Division; and aides to committee members and other members of the Legislature.

SUMMARY

HB 72        APPROP: OPERATING BUDGET/LOANS/FUNDS

HB 72 was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

HB 73        APPROP: MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET

HB 73 was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

#HB72

#HB73

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 72(FIN)

"An Act making appropriations for the operating and loan program expenses of state government and for certain programs and capitalizing funds; and providing for an effective date."

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 72(FIN) am S

"An Act making appropriations for the operating and loan program expenses of state government and for certain programs and capitalizing funds; amending appropriations; and providing for an effective date."

and

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 73(FIN)

"An Act making appropriations for the operating and capital expenses of the state's integrated comprehensive mental health program; and providing for an effective date."

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 73(FIN)

"An Act making appropriations for the operating and capital expenses of the state's integrated comprehensive mental health program; and providing for an effective date."

[4:15:52 PM](#)

DEPARTMENTS

NATURAL RESOURCES

TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

Chair Neuman communicated that the conference committee would be meeting on HB 72 and HB 73 open items. He noted that Limited Powers of Free Conference had been granted by both the Senate and the House. Departments with open items would be taken up based on the motion sheets distributed to

members earlier in the day and dated April 15, 2015. He relayed that the conference committee would not address open items from the Department of Health and Social Services budget during the current meeting.

[4:16:15 PM](#)

AT EASE

[4:17:36 PM](#)

RECONVENED

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Vice-Chair Kelly MOVED to ADOPT the Chair's recommendation on the following items for the Department of Natural Resources budget:

- Item 1 Senate
- Item 2 On line 1, Senate  
On line 2, Senate and change fund source to  
In-State Natural Gas Pipeline Fund, fund  
code 1229
- Item 3 House
- Item 13 Senate

Representative Gara OBJECTED for discussion. He objected to items one and two. He suggested that the proposed cuts would eliminate two staff within the Department of Natural Resources who were experts in North Slope gas commercialization. The cuts totaled approximately \$4.3 million. He relayed that the administration was concerned that the cuts would hamper the state's efforts to move ahead with a gas pipeline and to get gas to market. Representative Gara shared the same concerns.

Co-Chair Neuman responded that in his discussions with members of the department they did not oppose the proposed cuts.

[4:19:48 PM](#)

AT EASE

[4:22:21 PM](#)

RECONVENED

Co-Chair Neuman placed items 1 and 2 on hold.

There being NO OBJECTION, it was so ordered. This action left open items 1 and 2 in the budget for the Department of Natural Resources' budget.

[4:23:07 PM](#)

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

Vice-Chair Kelly MOVED to ADOPT the Chair's recommendation on the following items for the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities' budget:

- Item 1      On line 1, Senate  
              On line 2, House
- Item 2      Senate
- Item 3      Senate for both fund sources
- Item 4      Senate for both fund sources
- Item 5      House for both fund sources
- Item 6      Senate for both fund sources
- Item 7      Senate for both fund sources
- Item 8      Senate
- Item 9      Senate
- Item 10     Senate
- Item 11     Senate for both fund sources
- Item 12     House
- Item 13     Senate for both fund sources
- Item 14     Senate
- Item 15     Senate
- Item 16     Senate
- Item 17     House for both fund sources
- Item 18     House minus \$156.9 thousand General Fund,  
              fund code 1004, and minus 1 position
- Item 19     Senate
- Item 20     Senate
- Item 21     Senate
- Item 22     House for both fund sources
- Item 23     House
- Item 24     Senate
- Item 25     Senate
- Item 26     Senate
- Item 27     Senate
- Items 28 through 50 remain open.

There being NO OBJECTION, it was so ordered. This action left open items 28 through 50 for the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities' budget.

Chair Neuman relayed that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

HB 72 was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

HB 73 was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

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ADJOURNMENT

4:25:39 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.