

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**HOUSE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES STANDING COMMITTEE**

February 6, 2018

3:35 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Representative Ivy Spohnholz, Chair  
Representative Bryce Edgmon, Vice Chair  
Representative David Eastman  
Representative Jennifer Johnston  
Representative Colleen Sullivan-Leonard

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Representative Sam Kito  
Representative Geran Tarr  
Representative Matt Claman (alternate)  
Representative Dan Saddler (alternate)

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

HOUSE BILL NO. 236

"An Act extending the Alaska senior benefits payment program."

- MOVED HB 236 OUT OF COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 313

"An Act relating to payments to providers and covered persons and recovery of payments by health care insurers."

- SCHEDULED BUT NOT HEARD

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: HB 236

SHORT TITLE: EXTEND SENIOR BENEFITS PAYMENT PROGRAM

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) KAWASAKI

04/17/17	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
04/17/17	(H)	HSS, FIN
04/25/17	(H)	HSS AT 3:00 PM CAPITOL 106
04/25/17	(H)	-- MEETING CANCELED --
04/27/17	(H)	HSS AT 3:00 PM CAPITOL 106
04/27/17	(H)	Heard & Held
04/27/17	(H)	MINUTE(HSS)
05/04/17	(H)	HSS AT 3:00 PM CAPITOL 106

05/04/17 (H) Heard & Held  
05/04/17 (H) MINUTE (HSS)  
02/06/18 (H) HSS AT 3:00 PM CAPITOL 106

#### **WITNESS REGISTER**

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT KAWASAKI  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Answered questions on HB 236 as the sponsor of the bill.

#### **ACTION NARRATIVE**

[3:35:27 PM](#)

**CHAIR IVY SPOHNHOLZ** called the House Health and Social Services Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. Representatives Spohnholz, Sullivan-Leonard, Johnston, and Edgmon were present at the call to order. Representative Eastman arrived as the meeting was in progress.

#### **HB 236-EXTEND SENIOR BENEFITS PAYMENT PROGRAM**

[3:36:03 PM](#)

CHAIR SPOHNHOLZ announced that the only order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 236, "An Act extending the Alaska senior benefits payment program."

[3:36:26 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT KAWASAKI, Alaska State Legislature, reported that, as the bill had been introduced in 2017, the interim had been spent making the bill better. He stated that the proposed bill was "about keeping grandparents in the state and making sure that grandparents have the opportunities to play with their grandchildren, not have to move down to the Lower 48." He noted that, although it was a small benefit, it would go a long way toward ensuring that the families could stay together.

[3:37:50 PM](#)

CHAIR SPOHNHOLZ said that "we're all a big fan of keeping grandparents in the state."

[3:38:17 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE EDGMON moved to report HB 236, labeled 30-LS0754\A, out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes.

[3:38:33 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE EASTMAN objected. He reflected on earlier decisions made by the legislature which impacted seniors. He said that this was a half way measure that would not restore the cut to the permanent fund distribution. He pointed to the need for the legislature to decide whether that cut would be restored and offered his belief that the permanent fund distribution decision should come first.

[3:39:36 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE EASTMAN maintained his objection.

[3:39:40 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Spohnholz, Sullivan-Leonard, Johnston, and Edgmon voted in favor of HB 236. Representative Eastman voted against it. Therefore, HB 236 was reported out of the House Health and Social Services Standing Committee by a vote of 4 yeas - 1 nay.

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The committee took a brief at-ease.

[3:42:24 PM](#)

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the committee, the House Health and Social Services Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m.