

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE

February 23, 2017

3:36 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Click Bishop, Chair
Senator Lyman Hoffman
Senator Bert Stedman
Senator Berta Gardner

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Anna MacKinnon

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

SENATE BILL NO. 7

"An Act establishing a museum construction grant program in the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development."

- MOVED CSSB 7(CRA) OUT OF COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 78

"An Act establishing the second Monday of October of each year as Indigenous Peoples Day."

- HEARD & HELD

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: SB 7

SHORT TITLE: MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(s) STEVENS

01/09/17	(S)	PREFILE RELEASED 1/9/17
01/18/17	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/18/17	(S)	CRA, FIN
02/21/17	(S)	CRA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
02/21/17	(S)	Heard & Held
02/21/17	(S)	MINUTE(CRA)
02/23/17	(S)	CRA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

BILL: HB 78

SHORT TITLE: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) WESTLAKE

01/25/17 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/25/17 (H) CRA
01/31/17 (H) CRA AT 8:00 AM BARNES 124
01/31/17 (H) Moved HB 78 Out of Committee
01/31/17 (H) MINUTE(CRA)
02/01/17 (H) CRA RPT 4DP 2NR
02/01/17 (H) DP: WESTLAKE, DRUMMOND, FANSLER, PARISH
02/01/17 (H) NR: TALERICO, RAUSCHER
02/03/17 (H) TRANSMITTED TO (S)
02/03/17 (H) VERSION: HB 78
02/06/17 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/06/17 (S) CRA, STA
02/21/17 (S) CRA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
02/21/17 (S) Scheduled but Not Heard
02/23/17 (S) CRA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

WITNESS REGISTER

JOHN MANLY, staff
Senator Click Bishop
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Explained the changes in the CS for SB 7.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVID WESTLAKE
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Sponsor of HB 78.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[3:36:44 PM](#)

CHAIR CLICK BISHOP called the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:36 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Stedman, Hoffman, Gardner, and Chair Bishop.

SB 7-MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM

[3:38:18 PM](#)

CHAIR BISHOP announced consideration of SB 7 and said two changes were discussed last Tuesday.

JOHN MANLY, staff to Senator Bishop, Alaska State Legislature Juneau, Alaska, said both changes are on the page 1 of the new committee substitute (CS). The first one is on lines 10-11 and say that the department doesn't need to accept any applications until there is some money to deal with it. The second one is on lines 9 and 13 that includes repatriation of artifacts back to the state in what the money can be spent on.

[3:39:39 PM](#)

SENATOR STEDMAN moved to adopt the CS for SB 7, version 30-LS0175\J, as the working document.

CHAIR BISHOP objected for discussion purposes. Finding no discussion, he opened public testimony on SB 7. Finding none, he closed public testimony.

SENATOR STEDMAN moved to report CSSB 7, version J, from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s).

CHAIR BISHOP found no objection, and CSSB 7(CRA) moved from the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee.

[3:40:36 PM](#)

At ease

HB 78-INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

[3:41:50 PM](#)

CHAIR BISHOP called the meeting back to order and announced consideration of HB 78.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVID WESTLAKE, Alaska State Legislature, sponsor of HB 78, said this measure establishes the second Monday of October each year - the same day as Columbus Day - as Indigenous Peoples Day. He added that while it is not recognized by the state of Alaska as an official holiday, it is recognized as a federal one. This bill is not about destroying Christopher Columbus' reputation and tearing down the holiday. Rather, this bill is about unification and about the diversity that Alaska has. It recognizes the first Europeans in the Americas on this day and the people who were already living here. Alaska has more federally recognized tribes than all the Lower 48 states combined, and Alaska has the highest percentage of Native people in the nation living here.

For the last two years Governor Walker has proclaimed the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples Day in Alaska. Some other states and municipalities recognize this day, as well. It does not create a new state holiday; but it creates a day of honor, recognizing Native peoples, and places it on the same day as Columbus Day, which recognizes the intermingling of cultures that help make Alaska such a great state.

CHAIR BISHOP remarked that the Alaska Native population is the fastest growing population, also.

CHAIR BISHOP stated that he would hold HB 78 in committee for future consideration.

[3:45:05 PM](#)

CHAIR BISHOP, finding no further business to come before the committee, adjourned the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting at 3:45 p.m.