

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE STANDING COMMITTEE

April 30, 2021

8:04 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Zack Fields, Co-Chair
Representative Ivy Spohnholz, Co-Chair
Representative Calvin Schrage
Representative Liz Snyder
Representative David Nelson
Representative James Kaufman
Representative Ken McCarty

MEMBERS ABSENT

All members present

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

CONFIRMATION HEARING(S) :

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

David Koch - Anchorage

- HEARD

Board of Social Work Examiners

Sharon Woodward - Juneau

- HEARD

Workers' Compensation Board

Pamela Cline - Wasilla

- HEARD

HOUSE BILL NO. 170

"An Act establishing the Alaska energy independence program and the Alaska energy independence fund in the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED CSHB 170 (L&C) OUT OF COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 75

"An Act relating to employer contributions to the Public Employees' Retirement System of Alaska; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED HB 75 OUT OF COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL NO. 21

"An Act relating to mobile intensive care paramedics; relating to duties of the State Medical Board and the Department of Health and Social Services; and providing for an effective date."

- HEARD & HELD

SENATE BILL NO. 69 AM

"An Act extending an exemption from regulation as a public utility for plants and facilities generating electricity entirely from renewable energy resources; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED SB 69 AM OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HB 170

SHORT TITLE: ENERGY INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM & FUND: AIDEA

SPONSOR(s): RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

04/09/21	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
04/09/21	(H)	ENE, L&C, FIN
04/13/21	(H)	ENE AT 10:15 AM BARNES 124
04/13/21	(H)	Heard & Held
04/13/21	(H)	MINUTE (ENE)
04/15/21	(H)	ENE AT 10:15 AM BARNES 124
04/15/21	(H)	Heard & Held
04/15/21	(H)	MINUTE (ENE)
04/20/21	(H)	ENE AT 10:15 AM BARNES 124
04/20/21	(H)	Moved CSHB 170 (ENE) Out of Committee
04/20/21	(H)	MINUTE (ENE)
04/21/21	(H)	ENE RPT CS (ENE) NT 3DP 1NR 1AM
04/21/21	(H)	DP: FIELDS, CLAMAN, SCHRAGE
04/21/21	(H)	NR: ZULKOSKY
04/21/21	(H)	AM: KAUFMAN
04/26/21	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

04/26/21 (H) Heard & Held
04/26/21 (H) MINUTE (L&C)
04/30/21 (H) L&C AT 08:00 AM GRUENBERG 120

BILL: HB 75

SHORT TITLE: EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS TO PERS
SPONSOR(s): RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

02/18/21 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/18/21 (H) L&C, FIN
04/19/21 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
04/19/21 (H) Heard & Held
04/19/21 (H) MINUTE (L&C)
04/23/21 (H) L&C AT 8:00 AM GRUENBERG 120
04/23/21 (H) Heard & Held
04/23/21 (H) MINUTE (L&C)
04/30/21 (H) L&C AT 08:00 AM GRUENBERG 120

BILL: SB 21

SHORT TITLE: LICENSE MOBILE INTENSIVE CARE PARAMEDICS
SPONSOR(s): REVAK

01/22/21 (S) PREFILE RELEASED 1/8/21
01/22/21 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/22/21 (S) HSS, L&C
03/02/21 (S) HSS AT 1:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
03/02/21 (S) Heard & Held
03/02/21 (S) MINUTE (HSS)
03/04/21 (S) HSS AT 1:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
03/04/21 (S) Moved SB 21 Out of Committee
03/04/21 (S) MINUTE (HSS)
03/05/21 (S) HSS RPT 3DP 1NR
03/05/21 (S) DP: WILSON, COSTELLO, HUGHES
03/05/21 (S) NR: BEGICH
03/15/21 (S) L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
03/15/21 (S) Moved SB 21 Out of Committee
03/15/21 (S) MINUTE (L&C)
03/17/21 (S) L&C RPT 4DP
03/17/21 (S) DP: STEVENS, GRAY-JACKSON, REVAK,
HOLLAND
03/22/21 (S) TRANSMITTED TO (H)
03/22/21 (S) VERSION: SB 21
03/24/21 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
03/24/21 (H) HSS, L&C
04/13/21 (H) HSS AT 3:00 PM DAVIS 106
04/13/21 (H) Heard & Held
04/13/21 (H) MINUTE (HSS)

04/15/21 (H) HSS AT 3:00 PM DAVIS 106
04/15/21 (H) Moved SB 21 Out of Committee
04/15/21 (H) MINUTE(HSS)
04/16/21 (H) HSS RPT 5DP 2NR
04/16/21 (H) DP: FIELDS, SPOHNHOLZ, MCCARTY, PRAX,
SNYDER
04/16/21 (H) NR: KURKA, ZULKOSKY
04/30/21 (H) L&C AT 08:00 AM GRUENBERG 120

BILL: SB 69

SHORT TITLE: EXEMPT RENEWABLE ENERGY ELECTRIC PLANTS

SPONSOR(s): REVAK

02/03/21 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/03/21 (S) L&C
02/10/21 (S) L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
02/10/21 (S) <Bill Hearing Canceled>
02/15/21 (S) L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
02/15/21 (S) Heard & Held
02/15/21 (S) MINUTE(L&C)
03/03/21 (S) L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
03/03/21 (S) Moved SB 69 Out of Committee
03/03/21 (S) MINUTE(L&C)
03/05/21 (S) L&C RPT 1DP 3AM
03/05/21 (S) DP: COSTELLO
03/05/21 (S) AM: GRAY-JACKSON, STEVENS, HOLLAND
03/31/21 (S) TRANSMITTED TO (H)
03/31/21 (S) VERSION: SB 69 AM
04/05/21 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
04/05/21 (H) ENE, L&C
04/06/21 (H) ENE AT 10:15 AM ADAMS 519
04/06/21 (H) Heard & Held
04/06/21 (H) MINUTE(ENE)
04/13/21 (H) ENE AT 10:15 AM BARNES 124
04/13/21 (H) Moved SB 69 AM Out of Committee
04/13/21 (H) MINUTE(ENE)
04/14/21 (H) ENE RPT 3DP 2NR
04/14/21 (H) DP: CLAMAN, FIELDS, SCHRAGE
04/14/21 (H) NR: KAUFMAN, ZULKOSKY
04/26/21 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
04/26/21 (H) Heard & Held
04/26/21 (H) MINUTE(L&C)
04/30/21 (H) L&C AT 08:00 AM GRUENBERG 120

WITNESS REGISTER

DAVID KOCH, Appointee

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Spoke as an appointee to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

SHARON WOODWARD, Appointee
Board of Social Work Examiners
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Spoke as an appointee to the Board of Social Work Examiners.

PAMELA CLINE, Appointee
Workers' Compensation Board
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Spoke as an appointee to the Workers' Compensation Board.

ALAN WEITZNER, Executive Director
Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Provided information and answered questions during the hearing on CSHB 170 (ENE).

CURTIS THAYER, Executive Director
Alaska Energy Authority
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Provided information and answered questions during the hearing on CSHB 170 (ENE).

LIZZIE NEWELL
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of CSHB 170 (ENE).

TIM DILLON, Executive Director
Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District
Kenai, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of CSHB 170 (ENE).

HEZEKIAH HOLLAND
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of CSHB 170 (ENE).

ROBERT VENABLES, Executive Director
Southeast Conference
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of CSHB 170 (ENE).

NAURI TOLER

Eagle River, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of CSHB 170 (ENE).

LOIS EPSTEIN

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of CSHB 170 (ENE).

JACK HEBERT

Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of CSHB 170 (ENE).

JOHN GAEDEKE

Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified during the hearing on CSHB 170 (ENE).

CLARE KREILLKAMP

Associated General Contractors of Alaska

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of CSHB 170 (ENE).

JOMO STEWART, Energy Project Manager

Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation

Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of CSHB 170 (ENE).

MARGI DASHEVSKY, Regenerative Economics Coordinator

Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition

Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of CSHB 170 (ENE).

SANDON FISHER, Attorney

Legislative Legal Services

Legislative Affairs Agency

Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Provided information and answered questions during the hearing on CSHB 170 (ENE).

SETH DUGGEN, Staff

Senator Josh Revak

Alaska State Legislature

Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Introduced SB 21 on behalf of Senator Revak, prime sponsor.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[8:04:57 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR ZACK FIELDS called the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. Representatives Schrage, Spohnholz, Fields, and Snyder were present at the call to order. Representatives McCarty, Kaufman, and Nelson arrived as the meeting was in progress.

CONFIRMATION HEARING(S) :
Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
Board of Social Work Examiners
Workers' Compensation Board

[8:05:33 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS announced that the first order of business would be the confirmation hearings for consideration of the governor's appointees to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, the Board of Social Work Examiners, and the Workers' Compensation Board.

[8:05:56 AM](#)

DAVID KOCH, Appointee, Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, shared that he served for 40 years in the Anchorage Police Department to continue public service. He said that he has no connection to the industry but finds it interesting.

[8:07:20 AM](#)

SHARON WOODWARD, Appointee, Board of Social Work Examiners, shared that she graduated from the University of Nevada in 2007 with a Bachelor's in Social Work and has worked as an investigator for Adult Protective Services and is currently the director of social services in a long-term care facility in Juneau. She said that she is interested in serving on the board to gain personal knowledge of the legislative process and to encourage incoming social workers.

[8:08:11 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY discussed about the five boards relating to various behavioral sciences and he asked Ms. Woodward whether Nevada had individual boards.

MS. WOODWARD replied that she believes Nevada uses individual boards.

REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY asked what she thinks of combining boards.

MS. WOODWARD responded that she handles many behavioral situations as a social worker and that combining boards may benefit the sharing of knowledge.

[8:09:38 AM](#)

PAMELA CLINE, Appointee, Workers' Compensation Board, noted that she has served on the board since 2012. She shared that she originally represented hospital workers but now represents workers in numerous fields. She shared her view that the system is "good" and is continually evolving, and that the board works to do what's "right and fair" for injured workers while ensuring employer protection from excessive medical costs.

[8:11:19 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS opened public testimony for the governor's appointees to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, the Board of Social Work Examiners, and the Workers' Compensation Board. After ascertaining that no one wished to testify, he closed public testimony.

[The confirmation hearings resumed on 5/3/21.]

HB 170-ENERGY INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM & FUND: AIDEA

[8:11:34 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS announced that the next order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 170, "An Act establishing the Alaska energy independence program and the Alaska energy independence fund in the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority; and providing for an effective date." [Before the committee was CSHB 170(ENE).]

[8:12:14 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SCHRAGE moved to adopt Amendment 1 to CSHB 170(ENE), labeled 32-GH1074\B.6, Fisher, 4/28/21, which read as follows:

Page 9, lines 19 - 22:

Delete all material and insert:

"(e) At least 35 percent of the funds used for loans and other forms of financing for sustainable energy development made over a three-year period under AS 44.88.450 - 44.88.456 must be made in communities that receive, or that have residents who receive, power cost equalization under AS 42.45.100 - 42.45.150."

[8:12:17 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS objected for the purpose of discussion.

[8:12:20 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SCHRAGE said that the purpose of Amendment 1 is to ensure that underserved communities receive funding while considering the concerns about flexibility that were expressed by Alan Weitzner, Executive Director of the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA), during the April 28, 2021, meeting of the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee. He said that by averaging the funding requirement over three years, there would be flexibility while ensuring that the program is equitable in its reach.

[8:13:32 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY asked whether small communities would be considered for the funding mandate.

REPRESENTATIVE SCHRAGE responded that a number of communities receive power cost equalization (PCE), including some near the railbelt.

CO-CHAIR FIELDS added that the pending federal legislation requires 40 percent allocation of funds to underserved communities, so a 35 percent requirement in statute in Alaska would be less restrictive while leaving room for funding directed to underserved communities that are not necessarily receiving PCE.

REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY asked, "What is the denominator: the federal or the state?"

CO-CHAIR FIELDS responded that the federal law has not yet passed.

[8:15:51 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE NELSON said he would like to hear an opinion on Amendment 1 from AIDEA.

[8:16:29 AM](#)

ALAN WEITZNER, Executive Director, Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, stated that AIDEA has the same concerns, and for the same reasons, as previously expressed during the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting on April 28, 2021. He read from the text of the Clean Air and Energy Sustainability Accelerator Act, H.R. 806, Section 1627, subsection (b), paragraph (2), which read as follows:

MINIMUM PERCENTAGE.—The Accelerator shall ensure that over the 30-year period of its charter 40 percent of its investment activity is directed to serve climate-impacted communities.

MR. WEITZNER stressed that the federal legislation specifies "climate-impacted communities" to identify underserved communities. He pointed out that the allocation of 40 percent of investment activity is to occur over the 30-year charter, which is not in line with the three years as suggested by Representative Schrage. He said that there is ongoing debate regarding how funding is applied and stated his belief that a front-loaded funding requirement would inhibit the ability to implement programs. He stressed that AIDEA supports the intent of Amendment 1, which is to focus support on underserved communities in urban, rural, and remote areas, and asked for the flexibility necessary to help ensure a successful fund.

[8:19:27 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SCHRAGE opined that Mr. Weitzner's testimony further reinforces the need to define what an underserved community in Alaska would be, especially considering the factor of climate impact. In previous testimony, he said, it was expressed that some of the best investments are in weatherization and energy efficiency, both of which reduce the cost of diesel heating and the savings of which allow communities to pay back the loans received for energy upgrades. He then suggested that, if Amendment 1 is so restrictive, the capitalization could be increased so that approximately the same amount of funding is available for other investments.

[8:20:59 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS opined that Amendment 1 would make CSHB 170 (ENE) more flexible than originally written and amended.

[8:21:10 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR SPOHNHOLZ referred to the Renewable Energy Fund and asked how many applications in the past five years haven't been funded.

MR. WEITZNER replied that there has been no legislative funding for the Renewable Energy Fund since approximately 2015; however, the power cost equalization (PCE) endowment mandates that the first tranche of earnings funds PCE; the second tranche, totaling approximately \$30 million, funds community assistance; and any leftover earnings go to either power houses, the Renewable Energy Fund, or into a loan fund administered by the Division of Community and Regional Affairs at the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development. He said that 11 projects are pending before the legislature.

CO-CHAIR SPOHNHOLZ asked about the total value of the pending projects.

MR. WEITZNER replied that the value is approximately \$4.75 million.

CO-CHAIR SPOHNHOLZ commented that \$4.75 million out of \$10 million is more than the 35 percent currently proposed under Amendment 1. She noted that energy in rural Alaska is expensive, and that if spending by residents can be reduced, the funds can be used to invest in more renewable energy, creating a "virtuous cycle" of sustainability for those in PCE communities.

[8:24:33 AM](#)

CURTIS THAYER, Executive Director, Alaska Energy Authority, pointed out that the Renewable Energy Fund is a grant program.

[8:24:46 AM](#)

MR. WEITZNER added that the Alaska Energy Independence Fund is intended to be a loan program, and that green banks operate as a financial conduit for private-sector investment.

CO-CHAIR FIELDS commented that the House Special Committee on Energy heard testimony regarding the return on investment of

weatherizing homes in rural areas, many of which are extremely inefficient.

[8:25:27 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE KAUFMAN expressed the viewpoint that the adoption of Amendment 1 would be like telling a business that it would be required to sell a certain percentage of its product to a certain group.

REPRESENTATIVE SCHRAGE explained that the Connecticut Green Bank was so successful that it studied the financial vehicles being utilized and realized that underserved communities weren't being invested in. A requirement for investment in underserved communities was subsequently enacted, after which the green bank found that investing in such communities is profitable. Such projects are financially viable, he said, and Amendment 1 would ensure the prioritization of underserved communities in response to their need. He reminded committee members that the 35 percent funding requirement is already in CSHB 170(ENE); Amendment 1 would average that amount over three years.

[8:27:20 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE NELSON asked Representative Schrage whether he would consider a conceptual amendment to give Alaska's green bank some "breathing room" before enacting the requirement.

REPRESENTATIVE SCHRAGE responded that promises to invest in underserved communities often go unfulfilled, which is why he wants the requirement. He said, "If we're going to create a new program that invests in Alaska, let's make sure it's equitable right up front."

[8:28:09 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SNYDER suggested referring to the state energy policy under AS 44.99.115 which, she said, "directs Alaska to identify and assist with development [of] the most cost-effective and long term sources of energy for each community statewide." She said that the current policies have not achieved the directive; therefore, she supports Amendment 1.

[8:28:49 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY discussed an allocation of \$280 million over 12 years for energy programs and mentioned insulation and

window installation in Kodiak. He asked what percentage of homes the program impacted.

CO-CHAIR FIELDS asked Mr. Thayer to summarize the aggregate investment and the renewable energy fund going back to 2008 and the weatherization assistance program, as well as information on the railbelt and the PCE program.

[8:30:08 AM](#)

MR. THAYER replied that the weatherization programs for housing would have been through the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation and that he would find information on the other programs.

[8:30:38 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS told Mr. McCarty that state investment in renewable energy infrastructure has been greater than the aggregate investment in rural Alaska through the renewable energy fund. The weatherization assistance program, he said, was in urban and rural Alaska.

[8:31:02 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS removed his objection to Amendment 1.

[8:31:11 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE NELSON objected to Amendment 1.

[8:31:16 AM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Spohnholz, Fields, Snyder, and Schrage voted in favor of Amendment 1 to CSHB 170(ENE). Representatives McCarty, Nelson, and Kaufman voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 1 was adopted by the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee by a vote of 4-3.

[8:32:02 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SCHRAGE moved to adopt Amendment 2 to CSHB 170(ENE), as amended, labeled 32-GH1074\B.1, Fisher, 4/28/21, which read as follows:

Page 7, line 20, following "shall":
Insert "(1)"

Page 7, line 22, following "AS 44.88.450 - 44.88.456":
Insert ";

(2) annually prepare a report containing information regarding the implementation and operation of the Alaska energy independence program and fund under AS 44.88.450 - 44.88.456, including the amount of loans made, the amount available to be loaned, the scope of projects financed, and actions taken by the authority in response to recommendations from the advisory board established under AS 44.88.450(b), and deliver the report to the senate secretary and the chief clerk of the house of representatives and notify the legislature that the report is available"

[8:32:06 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS objected for the purpose of discussion.

[8:32:09 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SCHRAGE explained that Amendment 2 would require annual reports detailing the activities of the fund to include what investments have been made, how much has been invested, and how much money remains in the fund.

[8:33:34 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS removed his objection. There being no further objection, Amendment 2 was adopted.

[8:33:42 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SCHRAGE moved to adopt Amendment 3 to CSHB 170(ENE), as amended, labeled 32-GH1074\B.8, Fisher, 4/28/21, which read as follows:

Page 2, lines 7 - 13:

Delete all material and insert:

"(2) five public members [APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR], each of whom has expertise in private sector business or industry, or both, and possesses demonstrated leadership skills, appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint session."

Page 2, lines 15 - 16:

Delete "Public members of the authority described in (a)(2) of this section serve [AT THE PLEASURE OF THE GOVERNOR] for four-year [TWO-YEAR] terms."

Insert "Public members of the authority described in (a)(2) of this section serve staggered five-year [AT THE PLEASURE OF THE GOVERNOR FOR TWO-YEAR] terms."

Page 2, lines 18 - 21:

Delete all material.

Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

Page 10, line 31, through page 11, line 7:

Delete all material and insert

"(1) one member shall serve a one-year term;
(2) one member shall serve a two-year term;
(3) one member shall serve a three-year term;
(4) one member shall serve a four-year term;
(5) one member shall serve a five-year term."

[8:33:45 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS objected for the purpose of discussion.

[8:33:46 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SCHRAGE explained that an amendment adopted to HB 170 by the House Special Committee on Energy expanded the board of AIDEA, which is the same as the board of AEA, from five members to seven; it also mandated that four of the members be appointed by the legislature. He expressed the belief that the amendment would have been unconstitutional and would have overextended the reach of the legislature; Amendment 3, he said, is an attempt to broker proper legislative involvement in the board. The board would consist of five members and the governor would retain appointing power, he said, and appointees would be confirmed by the legislature. He said that Amendment 3 would also expand the board members' terms from four years to five, staggered to allow one new appointee each year.

[8:35:41 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE NELSON asked for the vote on the amendment passed in the House Special Committee on Energy.

REPRESENTATIVE SCHRAGE replied that he believes it passed by a vote of 5-2.

CO-CHAIR FIELDS expressed his agreement.

REPRESENTATIVE NELSON asked whether Representative Schrage voted for an amendment he believed to be unconstitutional.

CO-CHAIR FIELDS explained that there was no consensus on the constitutionality of the amendment. He said that given the varying opinions, it seems as if Amendment 3 is an attempt to compromise. He stressed that it was not clear whether the amendment was unconstitutional.

[8:37:05 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SCHRAGE said that it was his opinion that the previous amendment was unconstitutional, and he agreed with Co-Chair Fields' assertion that there was no clear consensus. He said that he doesn't want to see the proposed legislation caught up in legal issues.

[8:38:09 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE NELSON expressed his understanding that the proposed legislation is about establishing a green bank and said that he doesn't understand how board requirements are involved.

CO-CHAIR FIELDS explained that the proposed legislation would empower AIDEA with respect to the planned green bank, so it's logical to look at AIDEA's board structure and requirements.

[8:38:39 AM](#)

MR WEITZNER shared that AIDEA's position is that the issue is much broader than just what's described in the proposed legislation, including sustainable energy development and economic development in the sector.

[8:39:29 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SCHRAGE commented that AIDEA already manages over \$1 billion and, with the federal funds expected to be added, he could see AIDEA reaching \$2 billion in managed assets. To put

it in perspective, he noted that \$2 billion equals half of Alaska's current state budget. He opined that proper oversight is needed if the intention is to continue to empower AIDEA and to grow the scope of development it manages.

CO-CHAIR FIELDS commented that AIDEA board members undertake complicated, technical work, so a longer tenure makes sense; staggered terms would provide greater stability and predictability across administrations.

[8:40:48 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS removed his objection to Amendment 3.

[8:41:00 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE KAUFMAN objected for the purpose of discussion.

[8:41:03 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE NELSON suggested proposing different legislation regarding AIDEA oversight. He commented that he doesn't want to vote on Amendment 3 only to learn later that the amendment may be unconstitutional.

[8:41:41 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE KAUFMAN expressed that, while Amendment 3 is an improvement over the prior amendment adopted within CSBH 170(ENE), the issue of AIDEA oversight is worthy of a separate piece of legislation. He asked Representative Schrage to discuss how the performance of board members would be managed should Amendment 3 be adopted.

[8:43:08 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SCHRAGE responded that there are currently no performance measures for AIDEA board members; all five appointees serve at the pleasure of the governor, who may hire and fire members with no legislative process. He expressed that Amendment 3 would mandate thoughtful decisions regarding board appointments. He then listed several different state boards with appointees who serve at the pleasure of the governor, are confirmed by the legislature, and who may or may not be removed only for cause; he concluded that there is plenty of precedent for legislative confirmation and removal for cause for appointees serving on public-private boards.

[8:44:58 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY said that he is confused about a number of issues, and he asked whether the governor is unilaterally appointing board members.

REPRESENTATIVE SCHRAGE replied:

Yes, there are numerous boards that either have appointment at the pleasure of the governor or with confirmation, and removal at the pleasure of the governor or with cause. We have numerous boards, all with different structures, but the changes made in this amendment, there's precedence for.

REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY commented that, as a former trustee of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, he was appointed by the governor and confirmed by the legislature. He expressed the belief that Representative Schrage "gave an example of something that doesn't exist," and he asked for an at-ease to investigate Representative Schrage's claims.

[8:46:00 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS pointed out that there may be a misunderstanding, and he invited Representative Schrage to clarify his statements.

[8:46:04 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SCHRAGE said, "I believe I said, '... Mental Health Trust, appointed by the governor, confirmation by the legislature...'. I believe you went through the confirmation process, and removal is for cause only. So, in fact, the Mental Health Trust would be very similar [in] structure to what this amendment would create."

REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY expressed understanding that AIDEA board members are appointed by the governor with no legislative involvement.

REPRESENTATIVE SCHRAGE responded that is correct.

CO-CHAIR FIELDS interjected that Representative McCarty's description is of the current process, which would be changed by

the adoption of Amendment 3 to be more in line with other state boards.

[8:46:50 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS asked Representatives Kaufman and Nelson whether they maintained their objections.

[Representative Nelson nodded.]

[8:46:52 AM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Nelson, Snyder, Spohnholz, Fields, and Schrage voted in favor of Amendment 3 to CSHB 170(ENE), as amended. Representatives Kaufman and McCarty voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 3 was adopted by a vote of 5-2.

[8:47:49 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR SPOHNHOLZ moved to adopt Conceptual Amendment [4] to CSHB 170(ENE), as amended, to rename the green bank from the Alaska Energy Fund to the Alaska Clean Energy Fund.

[8:47:52 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS objected for the purpose of discussion.

[8:47:53 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR SPOHNHOLZ expressed that Alaska needs to show that it's serious about engaging in the transformative powers of the green bank, and amending the name would help accelerate the move toward energy sustainability and independence. She pointed out the need for private investment and stressed that development of clean energy would attract investors.

[8:49:06 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE NELSON expressed that the \$10 million already committed to the green bank should demonstrate Alaska's commitment.

CO-CHAIR FIELDS interjected that the updated fiscal note for capitalization of the green bank is \$30 million.

[8:49:54 AM](#)

MR. WEITZNER listed several names of similar programs in other areas and said that the current name evokes the mission of the fund and Alaska's sense of independence. He said that this initiative is a novel approach to energy independence and that the name of the fund is derived from its mission.

[8:51:49 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY asked Mr. Weitzner whether he agrees with changing the name to the Alaska Clean Energy Fund.

MR. WEITZNER said that AIDEA's preference is to leave the name as originally proposed and that he was only trying to inform the committee on the derivation of the name.

REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY said, "I'm also concerned about what happened in Texas ... Green energy was destroyed in areas where they had to go to other sources to keep energy going, and if we isolate it in words that it goes to 'this,' and something happens ... some of that green energy could be destroyed for a time." He asked whether the name would inhibit fund mobility.

MR. WEITZNER explained that the name itself would not prohibit using funds for things not specifically "clean," nor would it inhibit the state from being able to obtain federal or private sector funding.

[8:54:48 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SCHRAGE pointed out that the proposed legislation includes definitions for acceptable investment and that the name has no impact on fund uses.

[8:55:36 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR SPOHNHOLZ commented about the need to brand the program in a way that publicly illustrates the purpose of the fund; energy independence could imply an investment in diesel, she said, which isn't helping solve the energy problem. Green energy works in Alaska, she said, and Texas wasn't prepared with the infrastructure for freezing weather just like Alaska isn't prepared for excessive heat. She said that she isn't concerned that changing the name to the Alaska Clean Energy Fund would prohibit energy efficiency, but that it would signal that Alaska's green bank is a worthwhile investment.

[8:57:36 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS removed his objection. He stated that Representative Nelson "maintains his objection."

[8:57:42 AM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Spohnholz, Fields, Schrage, and Snyder voted in favor of Conceptual Amendment [4] to CSHB 170 (ENE), as amended. Representatives Nelson, Kaufman, and McCarty voted against it. Therefore, Conceptual Amendment 4 was adopted by a vote of 4-3.

[8:58:37 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS opened public testimony on CSHB 170 (ENE), as amended.

[8:58:56 AM](#)

LIZZIE NEWELL testified in support of HB 170. She said that the average annual cost of energy is over \$8,000 per resident and that up-front costs for home efficiency upgrades are burdensome; however, previous programs to offset the costs have been restricted. She said that her community council recently arranged for discounted solar panel installation but that she wasn't able to get a loan to cover the cost; had loans been available, more people would have been able to participate. She said home weatherization frees up income and employs individuals to complete upgrades at a time when employment is needed. She said that the proposed legislation would combat the state's high utility costs along with the large carbon footprint, and that it would have a lasting impact on neighborhoods.

[9:01:47 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SCHRAGE commented that Ms. Newell's testimony demonstrates the importance of the bill.

[9:02:09 AM](#)

TIM DILLON, Executive Director, Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District, testified in support of HB 170, commenting that Alaskans pay nearly twice the national average for energy. He said that cost-effective loan programs for individuals and communities for sustainable development would assist in creating

new jobs and businesses and would improve Alaska's energy independence.

[9:03:21 AM](#)

HEZEKIAH HOLLAND III testified in support of HB 170, sharing that he is a private investor and is very involved in entrepreneurship and innovation startups. He stated that, while he supports the proposed legislation, he is concerned that there are questions of "will" and of the ability to invest in new projects. He expressed concern with the overlap of the boards of AIDEA and the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) and of the boards' power to create new subsidiary organizations with no advisory reporting, and he recommended reconsideration of the powers under AS 44.88.178. He said that Alaska must move to a more independent and "investable" structure that would attract private capital, and he mentioned observing similar public-private initiatives that had risk tolerance levels that made investment unattractive. Regarding the board members, he recommended reserving a seat for an appointee specifically identified as having a background in innovation and new technology and who could be a voice for transformation instead of continuation of past projects. He suggested using the Alaska Center for Energy and Power or Launch Alaska as resources.

[9:06:15 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS commented that subsidiaries would be limited to the functions of the green bank.

[9:06:44 AM](#)

ROBERT VENABLES, Executive Director, Southeast Conference, testified in support of HB 170, expressing that it's consistent with the state's energy policy. He said that the legislature has been very "strategic" in ensuring that every opportunity to leverage federal funds is met to the fullest possible extent. He said that the proposed legislation addresses a significant need for loans and other forms of development in sustainable energy in residential, commercial, and industrial market sectors.

[9:08:27 AM](#)

NAURI TOLER testified in support of HB 170. She expressed concern with establishing the green bank within AIDEA due to issues she characterized as bad investments and employee

complaints that AIDEA creates a hostile work environment. She supported at least one-third of funds earmarked for rural areas and said that she would like to see a specific program for greenhouse gas emissions.

[9:11:09 AM](#)

LOIS EPSTEIN testified in support of HB 170. She said she is an engineer and has been a longtime critic of AIDEA's decisions, commenting that the AIDEA board doesn't have the time or staff to act as an independent check on AIDEA's decisions due to its members being selected by the governor. She said that AIDEA makes costly investments that promote the current governor's interests, regardless of whether the investments make sense for the state. The proposed legislation would be an opportunity to establish statutes regarding AIDEA's decisions, she said, and she recommended amending the proposed legislation to provide 30 days' public notice on resolutions and regulations, as well as require AIDEA to develop a publicly-available document showing the acceptance or rejection of factual or other relevant public comment. She said that Representative Claman's amendment regarding the makeup of the board should be retained in its current form, and she pointed out that AIDEA has operated for years without subsidiaries.

[9:13:25 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS commented that his understanding of AS 44.88.178 is that the creation of limited liability companies (LLCs) is limited to the functions of the green bank. He asked Mr. Weitzner for his interpretation.

[9:13:41 AM](#)

MR. WEITZNER responded that AIDEA currently has statutory authority under AS 44.88.172 to establish LLCs. The language of the proposed legislation, he said, identifies the ability of AIDEA to structure subsidiaries under the Alaska Energy Independence Fund, and that those specific subsidiaries would be used only for the program's powers and authorities.

[9:14:45 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SCHRAGE stated his disagreement that AIDEA currently has the ability to create LLCs. The original text of HB 170, he said, would have given AIDEA explicit authority to create LLCs under all of AIDEA's investments; Amendment 6,

adopted during the April 21, 2021, meeting of the House Special Committee on Energy, ensured that the authorization for LLCs was limited to the energy independence program.

[9:15:23 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS stated his agreement that the amendment appropriately constrains the LLCs to functions of the green bank.

[9:15:43 AM](#)

JACK HEBERT testified in support of HB 170. He shared that he is the founder of the Cold Climate Housing Research Center and said he has been building homes in Alaska for 48 years. He said that this proposed legislation is a positive step for rural Alaska.

[9:16:56 AM](#)

JOHN GAEDEKE shared his concern regarding AIDEA oversight. He said that more money allocated to the fund, and arguments by AIDEA for more flexibility, seem to translate into less oversight. He compared passing the proposed legislation with AIDEA oversight to acknowledging that someone is a drunk driver but still giving them a car. He said that he supports green energy but is concerned about the AIDEA oversight aspect.

[9:18:58 AM](#)

CLARE KREILLKAMP, Associated General Contractors of Alaska (AGC), testified in support of HB 170. She said that AGC does not represent any particular resource industry, instead advocating for a healthy economy, responsible environmental and developmental partnerships, and opportunities for infrastructure investment and construction activities. The Alaska Energy Independence Fund would create new opportunities statewide, she said, and the construction industry would play a critical role in providing the new services, which translate to meaningful wages for working Alaskans.

[9:21:20 AM](#)

JOMO STEWART, Energy Project Manager, Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation (FED), testified in support of HB 170. He said that Alaska needs an energy solution to address cost, availability, and flexibility. He expressed that the impact of

power cost equalization (PCE) is limited to residents, eliminating many economic actors in the state and that the cost of "classically defined" market capital can inhibit project development and enhancement. He expressed that the proposed legislation would fill a gap between grants and traditional market financing. He said that the ability to deviate from traditional investor rules and financing criteria is crucial because flexible capital can move projects forward.

[9:23:47 AM](#)

MARGI DASHEVSKY, Regenerative Economics Coordinator, Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition, testified in support of HB 170. She shared that she testified against the allocation of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to AIDEA for the Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Road project and has had difficulty participating in AIDEA's processes. She discussed the risk mitigation provided by green banks and said that banks and credit unions can use their liquidity in efficient manners. She said that this program provides an opportunity to hire specialized loan officers to assist homeowners and business owners in accessing funds and navigating the system.

[9:26:48 AM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS, after ascertaining that no one else wished to testify, closed public testimony on CSHB 170(ENE), as amended.

[9:26:57 AM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 9:26 a.m. to 9:27 a.m.

[CSHB 170(ENE), as amended, was tabled and taken up again after the committee returned from a recess.]

[9:28:07 AM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

The House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting was recessed at 9:28 a.m. to a call of the chair.

[3:03:07 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS called the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee back to order at 3:03 p.m. Present at the call back

to order were Representatives Fields, Snyder, Schrage, and Spohnholz. Representative Nelson arrived as the meeting was in progress.

HB 170-ENERGY INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM & FUND: AIDEA

[3:03:17 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS announced that the next order of business would be a return to HOUSE BILL NO. 170, "An Act establishing the Alaska energy independence program and the Alaska energy independence fund in the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority; and providing for an effective date." [Before the committee was CSHB 170(ENE), as amended.]

CO-CHAIR FIELDS read from the text of CSHB 170(ENE), as amended, page 5, beginning on line 9 and ending on line 11, which read as follows:

Subject to limitations for the use of the economic development account under AS 44.88.172 and the Alaska energy independence fund under AS 44.88.450 - 44.88.456, the

CO-CHAIR FIELDS asked, "Does inclusion of the clause '**economic development account under AS 44.88.172**' open up AIDEA authority to create LLCs beyond the scope of the green bank?"

[3:04:01 PM](#)

SANDON FISHER, Attorney, Legislative Legal Services, Legislative Affairs Agency, responded that with respect to the economic development account, AIDEA's authority to create LLCs would derive from AS 44.88.172(a)(2), which gives AIDEA the power to own limited liability companies. He discussed the existence of a possible conflicts between AS 44.88.172(a)(2) and AS 44.88.178 and he commented that, while the issue is worth clarifying, he doesn't believe that this language would give AIDEA the power to create LLCs. He said that the clause referenced by Co-Chair Fields specifically refers to transferring assets into a subsidiary, but requires that those assets be used for the purpose of their respective funds.

CO-CHAIR FIELDS asked whether CSHB 170(ENE), as amended, would limit the creation of LLCs to the functions of a green bank.

MR. FISHER replied that it's unclear. He said that corporations, LLCs, and limited partnerships are identified specifically with respect to the green bank but not the economic development account, and that the language in AS 44.88.172 specifically references LLCs, which, he expressed, may be the source of the ambiguity. He pointed out that the committee has the opportunity to clarify the issue.

CO-CHAIR FIELDS said that he wanted to clarify that the proposed legislation would authorize the creation of LLCs, limited partnerships, and subsidiary partnerships solely for the functions of the green bank. He asked Mr. Fisher how that could be accomplished.

MR. FISHER replied that it would be a policy call. He said that the committee would need to determine whether AIDEA should be limited to owning, but not forming, LLCs, or whether AIDEA should be completely prohibited from owning or forming subsidiary LLCs.

CO-CHAIR FIELDS stated that his goal would be to give AIDEA clear authority to create and own subsidiaries, LLCs, or limited partnerships for purposes of doing only green bank functions. He said, "This is a bill about the green bank; I think it's entirely reasonable that we give them the authority to use these multiple corporate types to pursue green bank functions, but I don't want it to be used beyond that ... whether the underlying statutes authorize that, in my view, is a question for another day." He asked Mr. Fisher whether he would have language on how to accomplish that.

MR. FISHER suggested adding "but not including limited liability companies" after the word "corporations" on page 5, line 4. He suggested that such a change would accomplish Co-Chair Fields' goal; however, it could potentially change the current authority in statute.

[3:10:06 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 3:10 p.m. to 3:11 p.m.

[3:11:45 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR SPOHNHOLZ opined that it would be wise to allow AIDEA some flexibility with regard to its methods of conducting business while creating more stability in its board membership. She discussed the complex legal and regulatory environment

around energy and economic development, and she expressed that having a longer tenure for board members is wise, as well as ensuring that board members are removed for cause.

[3:12:43 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR SPOHNHOLZ moved to report CSHB 170(ENE), as amended, from committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes.

[3:12:54 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS objected for the purpose of discussion. He thanked all of the invited testifiers for their participation and advice, and he noted the tension between public requests for transparency and accountability regarding AIDEA, and AIDEA's ability to carry out the functions of the green bank. He then removed his objection.

[3:13:49 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE NELSON objected.

[3:13:58 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SCHRAGE expressed excitement at the prospect of passage of the proposed legislation.

[3:14:44 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE NELSON expressed the opinion that the proposed legislation had moved away from its original intention and that the amendments had changed it to a comprehensive "fix" for AIDEA.

[3:15:14 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Spohnholz, Snyder, Fields, and Schrage voted in favor of the motion to report CSHB 170(ENE), as amended, from committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. Representative Nelson voted against it. Therefore, CSHB 170(L&C) was reported out of the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee by a vote of 4-1.

HB 75-EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS TO PERS

[3:16:06 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS announced that the next order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 75, "An Act relating to employer contributions to the Public Employees' Retirement System of Alaska; and providing for an effective date."

[3:16:22 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS opened public testimony on HB 75. After ascertaining that no one wished to testify, he closed public testimony.

[3:16:35 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR SPOHNHOLZ moved to report HB 75 out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, HB 75 was reported out of the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee.

SB 21-LICENSE MOBILE INTENSIVE CARE PARAMEDICS

[3:16:56 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS announced that the next order of business would be SENATE BILL NO. 21, "An Act relating to mobile intensive care paramedics; relating to duties of the State Medical Board and the Department of Health and Social Services; and providing for an effective date."

[3:17:24 PM](#)

SETH DUGGEN, Staff, Senator Josh Revak, Alaska State Legislature, introduced SB 21 on behalf of Senator Revak, prime sponsor. He said that SB 21 would consolidate oversight of the emergency medical services system under a single agency; currently, regulation of the EMS system is split between the State Medical Board and the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS). He briefly discussed the fragmented nature of the history of Alaska's emergency medical services system and pointed out that DHSS has the responsibility for certifying emergency medical technicians and instructors, training, ground ambulances, medevac services, and paramedic instructors; paramedics, however, remain under the purview of the State Medical Board. He said that the proposed legislation would not change the scope of practice, license requirements, or fee schedule for the approximately 600 paramedics licensed in

Alaska, and that medical direction would be provided by the existing DHSS Chief Medical Officer and the EMS Medical Director's Committee, comprised of 11 members specialized in emergency medicine. He said that the State Emergency Medical Services Office has a staff of six full-time positions, five of which are required to have paramedic experience, and with its existing data systems are ready to incorporate paramedic licensure, it's prepared to support the change.

[3:19:51 PM](#)

The committee took a brief at-ease at 3:19 p.m.

[3:20:22 PM](#)

MR. DUGGAN presented the sectional analysis for SB 21 [included in the committee packet], which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

Sec. 1 amends 08.64.107, State Medical Board/Regulation of physician assistants and intensive care paramedics, to remove regulation of paramedic licensure from the Medical Board. (See also Sec. 8.)

Sec. 2 amends 08.64.170(a), License to practice medicine, podiatry, or osteopathy, allowing paramedics to practice medicine to render emergency lifesaving service under "another law" instead of under the Medical Board's authority. (See also Sec. 6)

Sec. 3 amends 08.64.360, Penalty for practicing without a license or in violation of chapter, to remove paramedics. (See also Sec. 10)

Sec. 4 amends 08.64.369(d), Health care professionals to report certain injuries, to change paramedics licensed under the Medical Board to those licensed under DHSS, for health care providers who must report certain injuries to the Department of Public Safety.

Sec. 5 amends 12.55.185(11), Sentencing and Probation, to change paramedics licensed under the Medical Board to those licensed under DHSS.

Sec. 6 amends 18.08.075, Authority of emergency medical technician, to allow paramedics to provide emergency medical care. (See also Sec. 2.)

Sec. 7 amends 18.08.080, Emergency Medical Services/Regulation, to require DHSS to adopt regulations establishing standards for paramedic licenses.

Sec. 8 adds a new subsection 18.08.082(a)(5), Issuance of certificates; designations, to add regulation of paramedic licensure to DHSS. (See also Sec. 1.)

Sec. 9 amends 18.08.082(b), Issuance of certificates; designations, to clarify that DHSS is the central certifying and licensing agency for all emergency medical services.

Sec. 10 amends 18.08.084(a), Certificate required, to prohibit a person from practicing as a paramedic without a license. (See also Sec. 3.)

Sec. 11 amends 18.08.086(a), Immunity from liability, adding license because they are certified. This means it provides immunity in 08.02, which includes paramedics. They are not liable for civil damages unless it's gross negligence.

Sec. 12 18.08.089(a) is amended to allow a paramedic to pronounce someone's death if the paramedic falls under one of the three categories.

Sec. 13 adds a new paragraph (14) to 18.08.200, Emergency Medical Services/Definitions, to add the definition of "mobile intensive care paramedic". (See also Sec. 14.)

Sec. 14 Amends 29.45.050(r) to include mobile intensive care paramedics in a municipal property tax exemption. Emergency Medical Services are already under this, this section just clarifies Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics.

Sec. 15 amends 37.05.146(c)(77)(F), Definition of program receipts and non-general fund program receipts, to add fees for licensure of paramedics to the list of fees collected by DHSS.

Sec. 16 repeals 08.64.366, Liability for services rendered by a mobile intensive care paramedic (See

18.08.086, Immunity from liability, under DHSS). Repeals 08.64.380, Medicine/Definitions to remove (3) "emergency lifesaving service" and (4) "mobile intensive care paramedic" (See also Sec. 12).

Sec. 17 amends the uncodified law to provide transitional authorities:

(a) A current paramedic license issued before January 1, 2021 remains valid until it expires under the Medical Board, is suspended or revoked, or is converted to a license under DHSS.

(b) The Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development and the Medical Board will transfer to DHSS on January 1, 2021, files of all pending paramedic-related records and proceedings, applications, and disciplinary actions.

(c) Authority for DHSS to adopt regulations which shall include the conversion of unexpired paramedic licenses issued under the Medical Board.

Sec. 18 provides an immediate effective date for DHSS to adopt regulations.

Sec. 19 provides an effective date of January 1, 2022.

[3:22:34 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS announced that SB 21 was held over.

SB 69-EXEMPT RENEWABLE ENERGY ELECTRIC PLANTS

[3:22:54 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS announced that the final order of business would be SENATE BILL NO. 69, "An Act extending an exemption from regulation as a public utility for plants and facilities generating electricity entirely from renewable energy resources; and providing for an effective date."

[3:23:13 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR FIELDS opened public testimony on SB 69. After ascertaining that no one wished to testify, he closed public testimony.

[3:23:29 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR SPOHNHOLZ moved to report SB 69 out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, SB 69 was reported out of the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee.

[3:24:08 PM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 3:24 p.m.