

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE

April 11, 2023

8:02 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative CJ McCormick, Chair
Representative Kevin McCabe, Vice Chair
Representative Tom McKay
Representative Justin Ruffridge
Representative Rebecca Himschoot
Representative Donna Mears

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Josiah Patkotak

OTHER LEGISLATORS PRESENT

Representative Alyse Galvin
Representative Andrew Gray

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

PRESENTATION(S): DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

- HEARD

HOUSE BILL NO. 99

"An Act relating to and prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression."

- HEARD & HELD

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HB 99

SHORT TITLE: DISCRIMINATION: GENDER ID.;SEXUAL ORIENT.

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) ARMSTRONG

03/08/23	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
03/08/23	(H)	L&C, CRA, JUD
03/15/23	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
03/15/23	(H)	<Bill Hearing Canceled>
03/17/23	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
03/17/23	(H)	Heard & Held

03/17/23	(H)	MINUTE (L&C)
03/20/23	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
03/20/23	(H)	Heard & Held
03/20/23	(H)	MINUTE (L&C)
03/27/23	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
03/27/23	(H)	Moved HB 99 Out of Committee
03/27/23	(H)	MINUTE (L&C)
03/29/23	(H)	L&C RPT 3DP 3NR 1AM
03/29/23	(H)	DP: FIELDS, CARRICK, SUMNER
03/29/23	(H)	NR: SADDLER, WRIGHT, RUFFRIDGE
03/29/23	(H)	AM: PRAX
04/11/23	(H)	CRA AT 8:00 AM BARNES 124

WITNESS REGISTER

JAMES COCKRELL, Commissioner
 Department of Public Safety
 Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Co-presented a PowerPoint, titled "Overview of the Department of Public Safety."

BRYAN BARLOW, Deputy Commissioner
 Department of Public Safety
 Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Co-presented a PowerPoint, titled "Overview of the Department of Public Safety."

MO HUGHES, Division Director
 Alaska State Troopers
 Department of Public Safety
 Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions during the presentation on the Department of Public Safety.

REPRESENTATIVE JENNIE ARMSTRONG
 Alaska State Legislature
 Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: As prime sponsor, presented HB 99 via a PowerPoint, titled "HB 99: LGBTQ+ Nondiscrimination."

TRISTAN WALSH Staff
 Representative Jennie Armstrong
 Alaska State Legislature
 Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: On behalf of Representative Armstrong, prime sponsor, gave the sectional analysis of HB 99 and answered questions.

ROB CORBISIER, Executive Director
Alaska State Commission on Human Rights
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions during the hearing on HB 99.

MARGRET BERGERUD, Legal Counsel
Legislative Legal Services
Legislative Affairs Agency
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions during the hearing on HB 99.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[8:02:35 AM](#)

CHAIR CJ MCCORMICK called the House Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. Representatives McKay, Ruffridge, Himschoot, Mears, McCabe, and McCormick were present at the call to order.

PRESENTATION(S): Department of Public Safety

[8:03:27 AM](#)

CHAIR MCCORMICK announced that the first order of business would be a presentation on the Department of Public Safety.

[8:04:41 AM](#)

JAMES COCKRELL, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety (DPS), co-presented a PowerPoint, titled "Overview of the Department of Public Safety" [hard copy included in the committee packet]. He moved to slide 2, which showed DPS's mission of ensuring public safety and enforcing fish and wildlife laws. The slide listed DPS's key objectives, as follows: rural Alaska enforcement and public safety, domestic violence and sexual assault, the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program, investigations on narcotics and major crimes, and fisheries and wildlife resource protection. He added that there are around 90 Alaska Wildlife Troopers.

COMMISSIONER COCKRELL moved to slide 3, which displayed the divisions, programs, boards, and councils within DPS. Slide 4 listed DPS's successes over the last year, which include the

addition of new investigators for missing or murdered Alaska Natives. He stated that there has also been the addition of two new Tribal liaisons, 51 new State Troopers and 64 new VPSOs. He also pointed out DPS's successes in illicit fentanyl seizures. In response to a committee question concerning the new wellness program, he explained that the program includes staff who are dedicated to the wellness of troopers, which includes one sergeant, one lieutenant, and 30 peer-support positions. He stated that these positions are trained to address traumatic events officers may experience. He stated that seeing to the wellness of its employees is part of DPS's obligation. In response to a committee question, he stated that the [public safety] union is involved with the department, but it does not have a specific person assigned to provide wellness services. He commented that having a union member for this duty would be a good addition.

[8:15:26 AM](#)

COMMISSIONER COCKRELL, addressing another department success, stated that the bodycam project is in process. In response to a committee question, he expressed appreciation for the offer to help with the cost and stated that last year the program was funded through a federal grant, along with some state funding. He added that a problem with this project is the need for broadband in rural Alaska and the need to hire new positions. He stated that in the next month the bodycam pilot project will be "telling." He added that the processing of public information requests can be timely and costly, and these fees need to be addressed.

COMMISSIONER COCKRELL stated that another DPS success is the seizing of around 200,000 illegally harvested salmon. In response to a committee question, he replied that the fish are sold, with some of the money going into the general fund and some into the Department of Fish and Game fund.

[8:20:20 AM](#)

BRYAN BARLOW, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Safety, co-presented the PowerPoint, titled "Overview of the Department of Public Safety." On slide 5, he showed a map of Alaska and the breakdown of the Division of Alaska State Troopers, which includes four patrol detachments. The slide also showed a breakdown within these detachments. He moved on to slide 6, which focused on the accomplishments and challenges of the state troopers. Under accomplishments, he pointed out that in 2022

there was a big increase in the seizure of illicit drugs. He continued by indicating that the troopers have solved a high percentage of homicide cases within the last year. Continuing, he spoke about the creation of a program to enhance the presence of troopers in rural Alaska. He addressed the online reporting program, which helps remove the reporting burden from troopers. Concerning the challenges, he discussed problems of recruitment and retention, as many troopers will be retiring soon. He stated that the focus now is on attempting to slow the departure of non-retiring employees. He added that this is a topic of daily discussion for the department. Other challenges include tracking the technical changes in how crimes are committed and the importation of drugs and alcohol into rural Alaska, of which is a major focus. The last challenge he addressed is rural housing for troopers, which is a major fundamental factor in the ability to place troopers in rural parts of Alaska.

[8:29:59 AM](#)

MO HUGHES, Colonel, Director, Alaska State Troopers, Department of Public Safety, in response to a committee question, expressed uncertainty concerning the specific drug in question. He stated that he would report back to the committee on this.

[8:30:14 AM](#)

COMMISSIONER COCKRELL, in response to a committee question concerning housing, responded that he is unaware of the project where high school students are building housing for rural Alaska. He discussed the housing options for DPS and said that the department is "struggling" in this aspect. He noted that other departments are also competing for rural housing. In response to a committee question concerning whether the two-on and two-off posts are solving the staffing issues in rural Alaska, he replied that currently this is the best practice; otherwise, there would be no state troopers in most of the communities.

MR. BARLOW continued with the presentation and addressed the fiscal year 2024 budget changes, as seen on slide 7. These include rural trooper housing leases, added staffing positions, and Internet connectivity in rural areas. He stated that Internet connectivity has a big impact on the department's ability to operate. He moved to slide 8 and discussed the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA). He stated that these are federally designated areas. He said that there are 33 areas nationwide, with Alaska's first area created a couple years ago.

He indicated that this has enhanced the support for drug trafficking investigations in the state, as HIDTA brings in federal funding and creates more of a collaborative effort in the state. In response to a committee question, he stated that the entities involved in the collaborative effort are state troopers, local departments, and federal entities. In response to a committee question, he stated that there is a big base of operation surrounding the Bethel area. He continued that the illicit drug problem in the western part of the state is a prime focus. Because there is not a road system, he explained that commercial air carriers are a major way drugs are brought into Alaska, and these airports are important in addressing the problem, as this would be before the drugs reach the smaller communities. He moved to the next slide which listed the different narcotics teams across the state. In response to a committee question, he stated that the statewide drug enforcement efforts include working with entities outside of the state borders to stop the drugs from entering Alaska.

[8:45:25 AM](#)

COMMISSIONER COCKRELL moved to slide 11 and stated that there are 90 funded Alaska Wildlife Troopers. He said their major function is partnering with federal agents across the state to protect the state's wildlife resources. He pointed out that DPS does play a role in statewide boating safety, but he suggested that it should play a more substantial role. He pointed out the large amount of coastline in the state, as many of the department's resources are pushed towards patrolling the commercial fisheries. He expressed the importance of sustaining the fisheries for Alaskans who rely on this as a way of life.

MR. BARLOW moved to slide 12 and discussed DPS's Aircraft Section. He stated that because of the amount of roadless areas in the state, DPS depends daily on its fleet of aircraft for activities such as law enforcement response, search and rescue, and wildlife resource protection. He discussed the department's aircraft fleet and how the larger planes are used for disaster response.

COMMISSIONER COCKRELL, on the same slide, summarized DPS's Vessel Section. He stated that the state has a vast amount of marine resources, and the troopers rely heavily on the department's vessels to patrol and protect these resources. In response to a committee question, he stated that there has been a funding request concerning the decommissioned vessel, P/V Enforcer. He

discussed how crucial the vessel has been regarding the resources in Southeast Alaska.

COMMISSIONER COCKRELL moved on to slide 13 and discussed the VPSO Program, and the positive direction the program has taken over the past couple of years. He pointed out that now there is a full-time director, and the structure of the program is working. He stated that many positions have been filled, and funding is being requested for more positions. In response to a committee question, he stated that VPSOs are part of the wellness program, and they are provided with additional training, if requested. In response to a committee request, he explained the structure of the VPSO program and the collaborative effort with the Native tribes, as they are funding grantees. He discussed how the VPSO program has developed into having more responsibilities.

9:00:07 AM

MR. BARLOW continued the presentation on slide 15 and pointed out the importance of the Division of Fire and Life Safety. He stated that the division conducts fire safety inspections and investigates significant fires. He stated that one of the challenges is expanding the presence of deputy fire marshals into rural areas of the state. He moved to slide 16 and addressed the organization of the Division of Statewide Support. On slide 17, he pointed out the entities in this division, which include: the State Crime Lab, Criminal Justice Information Services, the Alaska Police Standards Council, the Violent Crimes Compensation Board, and the Alaska Public Safety Communications Services. He stated that all these entities are significantly important for operations.

COMMISSIONER COCKRELL moved to slide 18 and addressed the recent decrease in overall violent crime in the state; however, he noted that there has been an uptick in sexual assaults. He advised that this report is a snapshot in time, and it is possibly a result from the COVID-19 pandemic. He advised that the numbers could increase in the next year. In response to a committee question, he stated that normally it is known whether an individual is under the influence of alcohol or narcotics, but officers would not necessarily make notes on the mental health of individuals, as this information is protected. He stated that there is data on the number of arrests per driving under the influence of alcohol. He deferred the question on whether there is comprehensive data on these types of arrests.

MR. BARLOW responded that there are dispatch notes, which would articulate whether someone is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and this data can be put into statistics. He stated that these things, along with mental health issues, contribute to many of the service calls the department receives.

9:07:21 AM

COMMISSIONER COCKRELL moved to slide 18 and addressed sexual assault in the state. He said that in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta area the number of sexual assaults is "essentially horrible." He stated that this area leads the state in these crimes, and the crimes are mostly involving Alaska Natives. In response to a committee comment concerning the devastating statistics for sexual assault, he stated that many times the victim has knowledge of the perpetrator. In response to a committee question concerning prevention, he noted that once law enforcement is involved, there is already a victim. In response to a follow-up question, he stated that these statistics were gathered prior to the 2022 enactment of the state's consent law; therefore, it is too early to understand the effects of the law.

COMMISSIONER COCKRELL moved to slide 19 and stated that the primary focus of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is prevention. He added that it also provides safe shelters around the state. He spoke about the council's funding and the grants it awards to the small communities. He pointed out the Language Access Plan, which focuses on the Native languages spoken around the state. He continued to slide 20 and stated that the council is mainly federally funded; however, this funding is continuing to decrease. He advised that to provide these grants, a consistent level of support is needed. In response to a committee question concerning emergency calls from villages, he stated that rural Alaska is "suffering" from not having consistent 911 services. He continued that these calls from the villages hit a "trunk line," and they end up in Fairbanks where there is no way to determine the source of the call. He stated that DPS is working on a better solution; however, this is a very big problem, and any solution would need a lot of funding. He expressed frustration that, after 60 years, there is still not adequate law enforcement or a structure for the troopers in the villages. He observed that state funding goes to other places, but it does not address this. He gave the example of a village waiting three days after a homicide for a state trooper to arrive. He argued that the department needs rural housing, a consistent budget, and a team to support its efforts in rural Alaska. In response to a

committee question on the funding from the Restorative Justice Program, he stated that the problem with this funding is, it could change too. He expressed the opinion that general funds would be a more stable way to address these problems and funding the budget, and the Restorative Justice Program funding could be used in areas which do not require stable funding. He stated that stable funding is needed for the village grantees because these rural communities do not have the resources.

[9:22:08 AM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 9:22 a.m. to 9:24 a.m.

HB 99-DISCRIMINATION: GENDER ID.;SEXUAL ORIENT.

[9:24:47 AM](#)

CHAIR MCCORMICK announced that the final order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 99, "An Act relating to and prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression."

[9:25:46 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE JENNIE ARMSTRONG, Alaska State Legislature, as prime sponsor, introduced HB 99 via a PowerPoint, titled "HB 99: LGBTQ+ Nondiscrimination" [hard copy included in the committee packet]. She stated that HB 99 would add sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression as protected classes under the statutes governing the Alaska Commission for Human Rights (ASCHR). She stated that all Alaskans are protected classes; thus, this would not be treating lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) individuals in a special way, but it would make sure these individuals have the same rights as everyone else. She stated that this is a cleanup bill following the decision by the Supreme Court of the United States in Bostock v. Clayton County, 590 U.S. 644 (2020). Because of this case, she explained that LGBTQ discrimination in employment is protected across the U.S. She continued that the proposed legislation would expand this to all the five areas ASCHR covers. She stated that ASCHR was briefly allowed to cover these five areas; however, for this to continue it must be put into statute. She argued that discrimination in the state is currently legal, and per Bostock v. Clayton County, these protections for the LGBTQ community should be codified.

[9:27:52 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE ARMSTRONG advised that the bill would not interfere with religious freedoms. She continued that the five subject areas the bill would address that ASCHR oversees, as seen on slide 2, are: housing, financing, employment, government practices, and public accommodation. She said that cases on discrimination based on employment are currently being heard by ASCHR, and she reiterated that the proposed legislation would extend this to the other four categories. She addressed discrimination's negative effects on society and business, as seen on slide 3. She displayed a supplementary slide [hard copy included in the committee packet] showing an ad from the website Zillow, which warned that communities in some parts of Alaska are not protected against discrimination for housing. She argued the state is suffering from outmigration because of this. She moved to the next slide, which shows that 80 percent of Americans support LGBTQ nondiscrimination policies. She continued that 9 out of the top 10 employers in the state lists sexual orientation in their nondiscrimination policy. She argued that the proposed legislation would bring workers to the state. She moved to slide 5, which listed the economic benefits from having comprehensive nondiscrimination policies. She stated that unless a city is listed as "first class" its assembly cannot pass a nondiscrimination ordinance, and this is why a statutory solution is needed. She moved to the next slide which showed the percentage of same sex couples in the state. It also showed the percentage of the workforce in the state who identify as LGBTQ. She pointed out that many people hide their sexual orientation for fear of employment discrimination. On a supplemental slide, included in the committee packet, she displayed a study on the effects of discrimination on employment in Alaska.

REPRESENTATIVE ARMSTRONG moved to slide 7, which lists the impacts on LGBTQ Alaskans when they face discrimination. She explained that these setbacks stop members of this community from having a productive role in society. She noted the effects on LGBTQ Native youth, which include homelessness. She pointed to a letter in the committee packet which explains the effects of this. She reiterated the importance of Bostock v. Clayton County.

[9:34:30 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE ARMSTRONG continued to slide 11 and listed what is currently covered under AS 18.80, the state's human rights statute. She argued that the definitions in Bostock v. Clayton

County need to be included in this list, as Alaska Supreme Court case law covers all five subject areas, not just employment. She reminded the committee that from February 2021 to August 2022, ASCHR had been able to cover all discrimination areas, and the supreme court cases support this. She stated that this was rescinded because it was found by the state's attorney general that ASCHR would need statutory authority to continue the practice, and she pointed out that HB 99 would give this authority.

[9:36:31 AM](#)

TRISTAN WALSH, Staff, Representative Jennie Armstrong, on behalf of the prime sponsor, Representative Armstrong, noted that the sectional analysis shows the changes from previous versions of the bill from past sessions. He gave the sectional analysis [copy included in the committee packet], which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

Section 1: This section is conforming language with Section 2. It adds "sex" to the area of Alaska Statutes regarding blockbusting.

Section 2: This section adds new paragraphs under AS 18.80.300 to define sex to include "gender identity or expression" and "sexual orientation".

MR. WALSH noted that the definition of "sex" has been updated to be consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court's definition. He stated that this version of the bill uses an updated definition of "sexual orientation" which is more inline with the scientific understanding of sexuality. He stated that the definition is more comprehensive, and this should deter any future litigation or statutory changes.

[9:38:48 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE expressed the understanding that the bill is supposed to be about housing; however, there has not been any mention of blockbusting and unlawful discriminatory practices. He concluded that the proposed legislation is not about housing, but a change in definitions. He pointed out that the federal Fair Housing Act already addresses this. He questioned whether the proposed legislation would be redundant.

MS. ARMSTRONG clarified that ASCHR covers five subject areas, and the section on blockbusting is a conforming change. She deferred the question.

[9:40:40 AM](#)

ROB CORBISIER, Executive Director, Alaska State Commission on Human Rights, explained that Section 1 is a conforming section. He explained that a few years ago there was an effort to make ASCHR a state-level partner with the Department of Law (DOL) on discrimination cases; however, [to make this legal], it was determined that changes needed to be made to conform state statutes with the federal equivalent. Another barrier was that 20 percent of ASCHR's budget would need to be dedicated to housing discrimination cases; however, this was not achieved, and all housing discrimination cases are now deferred to Alaska Legal Services.

MR. CORBISIER continued that currently the state does not have the jurisdiction to make a sex-based claim as a blockbusting claim. He explained that Section 2 in the proposed legislation is "the heart of what the bill is and what it does," as this would change the definition of "gender identity" in law, giving ASCHR the authority to prosecute the cases outside of the employment provision.

[9:43:33 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE questioned whether incidents of sexual orientation or gender identity discrimination are being tracked in the state. He suggested that this is under a federal law. If this data is tracked, he questioned where the data is located.

MR. CORBISIER responded that because Bostock v. Clayton County does not articulate that the LGBTQ community is its own protected class, the numbers are not tracked. He related that this case says this discrimination is a component of sex, so these cases would be tracked as sex discrimination cases only.

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE expressed the understanding that the number of these cases in Alaska is unknown, and this is the reasoning behind the proposed legislation, even though it looks like a housing bill. He suggested that since the fiscal note reflects an increase in cases, there must be a number of cases in mind.

MR. CORBISIER replied that he does not know the number of cases. He explained that from December 2020 to August 2022, under ASCHR's initial guidance by DOL to do all five subject matter cases, there was not a requirement to track the numbers. He added that during this period 80 percent of the cases were employment based. He stated that there are not many housing discrimination cases, and there are more public accommodation cases.

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE expressed the understanding that currently the definitions of gender identity and sexual orientation in the bill only apply to the term blockbusting. He questioned this limitation, as it seems like a side issue.

[9:47:09 AM](#)

MR. WALSH responded that the definitions in Section 2 of the proposed legislation include the entire ASCHR's chapter; therefore, making it applicable to the areas listed in AS 18.80.

REPRESENTATIVE ARMSTRONG added that the proposed legislation is narrowly focused on ASCHR and the five subject matters it covers. She added that the section on blockbusting is a conforming change and deferred to Legislative Legal Services.

[9:48:07 AM](#)

MARGRET BERGERUD, Legal Counsel, Legislative Legal Services, Legislative Affairs Agency, concurred. She stated that currently under AS 18.80, the Alaska Human Rights Law, sex is undefined; therefore, the proposed legislation would add a definition of sex, under which gender identity and sexual orientation would be added and clarified. This would then apply under the entirety of AS 18.80, not just the blockbusting section.

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE questioned whether there are any other sections in AS 18.80 which would require the same language.

MR. WALSH responded that prior versions of the legislation did not include sex in the section regarding blockbusting. He explained the historical concept of blockbusting in terms of race discrimination and how now it needs to be clarified in terms of the LGBTQ community.

REPRESENTATIVE ARMSTRONG pointed out that employment is listed, and these cases are currently being taken. She reiterated that

ASCHR has been granted the jurisdiction to take cases on housing.

[9:51:52 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCKAY pointed out the description of public accommodations. He questioned whether this includes government buildings, bathrooms, and locker rooms. He gave the scenario of a biological male entering a female locker room and undressing. He questioned whether this would happen under the proposed legislation.

REPRESENTATIVE ARMSTRONG deferred to Mr. Corbisier.

MR. CORBISIER replied that public accommodation does include educational institutions and government buildings, per regulation. He expressed uncertainty concerning Representative McKay's question. He stated that this circumstance has not been faced, but if it is a government practice and discriminatory, it would fall under the jurisdiction of ASCHR.

[9:54:34 AM](#)

MR. WALSH said, "Trans persons are usually just looking for a place to be in peace." He added that historically these people are much more likely to be the victim. He suggested that any idea these people would be preying on children is not reflected in the data collected, which can be supplied to the committee.

[9:55:37 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE shared that he has had some of the same questions concerning the bill's place in AS 18.80. He sought to clarify that adding definitions in Section 2 would give ASCHR the capacity to investigate complaints or claims regarding discrimination.

REPRESENTATIVE ARMSTRONG responded in the affirmative.

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE pointed out the term "expression" in the proposed legislation does not have a definition. He questioned why the term "gender identity" is not sufficient.

MR. WALSH explained that "gender expression" is a widely used term in the LGBTQ community, scientific literature, and public discourse. He continued that every human has both gender identity and gender expression, and these are commonly referred

to as being "innate;" however, traditionally humans have been defined as "binary" in the western world. He continued that as understanding evolves, using the term "gender expression" is a way to expand the multiple meanings of sexual identity. He added that this language has been used in prior versions of the bill, and he expressed the opinion that it is the most encompassing language. He expressed the understanding that stakeholders would support using the term, as it would supply adequate protections for the LGBTQ community.

[9:58:50 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE, with a follow-up question, asked for an example of gender expression compared to gender identity.

MR. WALSH replied that "gender identity" would be, for example, when a male identifies with the pronouns he, him, and his, while "gender expression" would identify in a more nonbinary way; this is ultimately how an individual would present themselves to the world. He deferred to Representative Armstrong.

REPRESENTATIVE ARMSTRONG stated that overtime there have been different ideas on what it means to be male or female. For example, in the past females did not wear pants. She continued that people have various ways of self-expression, such as the length of an individual's hair. She explained the idea of "snap judgements," where people judge one another on each other's self-expression. She remarked that these ideas also have changed over time. She stated that "gender expression" means that individuals appear in a way which best suits them.

[10:02:53 AM](#)

CHAIR MCCORMICK announced that HB 99 was held over.

[10:03:42 AM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.