

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**HOUSE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE**

April 16, 2024

8:02 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

All members present

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

HOUSE BILL NO. 30

"An Act relating to daylight saving time; and providing for an effective date."

- HEARD & HELD

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: HB 30

SHORT TITLE: OBSERVE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ALL YEAR

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) ORTIZ

01/19/23	(H)	PREFILE RELEASED 1/9/23
01/19/23	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/19/23	(H)	CRA, STA, L&C, FIN
03/14/23	(H)	CRA AT 8:00 AM BARNES 124
03/14/23	(H)	Heard & Held
03/14/23	(H)	MINUTE(CRA)
04/16/24	(H)	CRA AT 8:00 AM BARNES 124

**WITNESS REGISTER**

REPRESENTATIVE DAN ORTIZ  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** As prime sponsor, gave a summary of HB 30 and answered committee questions.

**ACTION NARRATIVE**

[8:02:15 AM](#)

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

**HB 30-OBSERVE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ALL YEAR**

[8:02:55 AM](#)

**CHAIR MCCORMICK** announced that the only order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 30, "An Act relating to daylight saving time; and providing for an effective date."

[8:03:30 AM](#)

**REPRESENTATIVE DAN ORTIZ**, Alaska State Legislature, as prime sponsor, provided a summary of HB 30. He paraphrased the sponsor statement [included in the committee packet], which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

House Bill 30 establishes Daylight Saving Time (DST) as the official time for the State of Alaska year-round, subject to the authorization of federal law.

DST is observed between the second Sunday of March and the first Sunday of November. Adoption of this legislation is the first step. To fully implement the change to full-time DST, action by the United States Congress is required. Congress will need to amend federal law to allow states to observe DST throughout the calendar year.

Nationally, the initiative to change to full-time DST is gaining traction. As of March 2022, 18 states have enacted DST legislation. In 2022 alone, 28 states are considering DST legislation. On the west coast, California voters authorized the change pending legislation and in 2019, both Washington and Oregon passed legislation similar to HB30. Our Canadian neighbors have also taken steps to move to full-time

DST. British Columbia passed legislation to implement full-time DST contingent on the U.S. west coast also implementing it. Yukon began full-time DST on March 8, 2020.

Because of our close economic and geographic ties to the U.S. and Canadian west coasts, Alaska can avoid being 'left in the dark' by passing HB30.

[8:06:45 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HIMSCHOOT inquired about the changes in federal law that would be required.

REPRESENTATIVE ORTIZ said attempts at passing this type of legislation is always contingent on congress giving final approval.

[8:07:52 AM](#)

CHAIR MCCORMICK questioned the original purpose of Daylight Saving Time (DST).

REPRESENTATIVE ORTIZ shared his understanding that because the workforce was largely agricultural, DST was an attempt to help farmers by lengthening the time spent in the field. He said there may have been military implications as well.

CHAIR MCCORMICK said it's his understanding that it was less about agriculture and more about the rationing of resources for World War II.

[8:09:45 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE BAKER asked why, in reference to the higher rate of robberies and car crashes, people are "bad" on standard time.

REPRESENTATIVE ORTIZ said studies show that more daylight in the evenings is less likely to attract burglars because it's harder to be discreet. Theoretically, he said, it would limit the time when bad things can happen.

[8:11:16 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE shared his understanding that in Anchorage, [DST] would delay sunrise until 11:15 a.m.

REPRESENTATIVE ORTIZ answered yes. He acknowledged that this change would not be as conducive to Western Alaska where there is already a late sunrise in the winter.

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE recalled when Alaska had five time zones. He asked whether the bill would put Alaska in line with the rest of the U.S.

REPRESENTATIVE ORTIZ reiterated that the bill if passed would still require congressional approval. He explained that the bill is in response to the broad support for not changing the clocks, and it seems that most states on the West Coast are moving in the direction of maintaining DST. He said one particular benefit of remaining on DST all year long is to have one extra hour of light in the evening, which is advantageous for the tourism industry.

[8:15:36 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCKAY referred to the New York Stock Exchange and asked whether New York is making the switch.

REPRESENTATIVE ORTIZ did not know the answer. He explained that if this change were made in Alaska, there would be a three-hour time difference in New York for part of the year and a four-hour difference for the other part.

CHAIR MCCORMICK reflected on living in Hawaii where there is a similar time difference for part of the year.

[8:18:03 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HIMSCHOOT asked whether federal action could solve this for everyone.

REPRESENTATIVE ORTIZ said the federal government may have the power but there's no desire to make a unilateral decision. He recalled that the U.S. Senate took action in support of DST last year to authorize those states that wanted to stay on DST; however, it was never enacted because the U.S. House never took up the issue.

CHAIR MCCORMICK sought closing comments from the bill sponsor.

REPRESENTATIVE ORTIZ stated that moving the bill out of committee would be the first step on a long road. He shared his belief that there is strong public interest in not changing the

clocks from spring to fall; however, there is still a debate on DST versus Standard Time. He reiterated that the bill would support the actions that other West Coast states are taking.

[8:21:45 AM](#)

CHAIR MCCORMICK announced that HB 30 would be held over.

[8:22:09 AM](#)

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the committee, the House Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 8:22 a.m.