

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE STANDING COMMITTEE

March 6, 2023

3:15 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Jesse Sumner, Chair
Representative Justin Ruffridge, Vice Chair
Representative Mike Prax
Representative Dan Saddler
Representative Stanley Wright
Representative Ashley Carrick
Representative Zack Fields

MEMBERS ABSENT

All members present

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HOUSE BILL NO. 29

"An Act relating to insurance discrimination."

- MOVED CSHB 29(L&C) OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HB 29

SHORT TITLE: INSURANCE DISCRIMINATION

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) MCCABE

01/19/23	(H)	PREFILE RELEASED 1/9/23
01/19/23	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/19/23	(H)	L&C, JUD
02/10/23	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
02/10/23	(H)	Heard & Held
02/10/23	(H)	MINUTE(L&C)
02/17/23	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
02/17/23	(H)	Heard & Held
02/17/23	(H)	MINUTE(L&C)
03/03/23	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
03/03/23	(H)	<Bill Hearing Canceled>
03/06/23	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

WITNESS REGISTER

BUDDY WHITT, Staff
Representative Kevin McCabe
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions during the hearing on HB 29, on behalf of Representative McCabe, prime sponsor.

REPRESENTATIVE KEVIN MCCABE
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: As prime sponsor, answered questions during the hearing on HB 29.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[3:15:15 PM](#)

CHAIR JESSE SUMNER called the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. Representatives Carrick, Fields, Saddler, Wright, Prax, Ruffridge, and Sumner were present at the call to order.

HB 29-INSURANCE DISCRIMINATION

[3:15:46 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the only order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 29, "An Act relating to insurance discrimination."

[3:16:03 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK moved to adopt Amendment 1 to HB 29, labeled, 33-LS0272\B.1, Marx, 2/13/23, which read as follows:

Page 1, line 4:
Following "**political**":
Insert "**party**"
Following "**or**":
Insert "**political**"

Page 1, line 6:
Following "political":
Insert "party"
Following the first occurrence of "or":
Insert "political"

Page 2, following line 3:

Insert a new subsection to read:

"(c) In this section, "political party" has the meaning given in AS 15.80.010."

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER objected.

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK stated that the amendment would change the definition of "political party" in the proposed legislation to be consistent with the current definition in statute.

[3:16:53 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked for the opinion of the sponsor on the amendment.

[3:17:16 PM](#)

BUDDY WHITT, Staff, Representative Kevin McCabe, Alaska State Legislature, on behalf of Representative McCabe, prime sponsor, reminded the committee that the new, current definition in statute states that a political party must have 5,000 members to be considered a political party.

[3:18:23 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE KEVIN MCCABE, Alaska State Legislature, as prime sponsor of HB 29, expressed concerns on the recent change with the requirement that a political party have 5,000 members; otherwise, he stated that he is "fine" with Amendment 1. In response to a follow-up question, he stated that Amendment 1 would keep the original intent of the proposed legislation intact, but it would replace the language "political affiliation" with "political party".

[3:19:30 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 3:19 p.m. to 3:20 p.m.

[3:20:12 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE expressed concern that Amendment 1 would not change line 4 of HB 29, which includes the language about "political affiliation".

[3:21:07 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK expressed the intent to remove any language concerning political expression and affiliation completely in favor of "political party".

[3:22:02 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK moved to adopt Conceptual Amendment 1 to Amendment 1, as follows:

On page 1, line 4:

Following "Discrimination based on political"
Delete "affiliation or expression"
Insert "party"

[3:22:17 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER objected. He asked for clarification on the exact wording that Conceptual Amendment 1 to Amendment 1 would create.

[3:22:51 PM](#)

The committee took a brief at-ease.

[3:22:53 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK clarified the changes proposed under Conceptual Amendment 1 to Amendment 1.

[3:24:18 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER removed his objection. There being no further objection, Conceptual Amendment 1 to Amendment 1 was adopted.

[3:24:34 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER asked Representative Saddler if he maintained his objection to Amendment 1, as conceptually amended.

[3:24:47 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER removed his objection. There being no further objection, Amendment 1, as conceptually amended, was adopted.

[3:25:07 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER moved to adopt Amendment 2, to HB 29, labelled 33-LS0272\B.2, Marx, 2/15/23, as amended, which read as follows:

Page 1, line 5:
Delete "state"

Page 1, line 7:
Delete "state official as defined in AS 44.99.205"
Insert "official"

Page 2, following line 3:
Insert a new subsection to read:
"(c) In this section, "elected official" means a member of the legislature, the governor, the lieutenant governor, a constitutional convention delegate, a borough or city mayor, or a member of a borough or city assembly, council, or school board."

There being no objection, Amendment 2 was adopted.

[3:25:23 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER opened public testimony on HB 29. After ascertaining there was no one who wished to testify, he closed public testimony.

[3:25:48 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE moved to report HB 29, as amended, out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying zero fiscal note.

[3:26:15 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS objected. He expressed concerns that the proposed legislation could be viewed as "self-serving" and potentially cause other Alaskans to lose their ability to buy umbrella insurance coverage.

[3:26:58 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Prax, Ruffridge, Saddler, Wright, Carrick and Sumner voted in favor of HB 29, as amended. Representative Fields voted against it. Therefore,

CSHB 29 (L&C) was reported out of the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee by a vote of 6-1.

[3:27:33 PM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.