

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE STANDING COMMITTEE**

March 17, 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

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Representative Zack Fields

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

HOUSE BILL NO. 86

"An Act relating to the business of money transmission; relating to money transmission licenses, licensure requirements, and registration through the Nationwide Multistate Licensing System and Registry; relating to the use of virtual currency for money transmission; relating to authorized delegates of a licensee; relating to acquisition of control of a license; relating to record retention and reporting requirements; authorizing the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development to cooperate with other states in the regulation of money transmission; relating to permissible investments; relating to violations and enforcement of money transmission laws; relating to money transmission license exemptions; relating to payroll processing services; repealing currency exchange licenses; and providing for an effective date."

- HEARD & HELD

HOUSE BILL NO. 85

"An Act relating to professional licensing; relating to temporary licenses for some professions; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED CSHB 85(L&C) OUT OF COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 99

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

- HEARD & HELD

HOUSE BILL NO. 91

"An Act relating to deduction of labor or employee organization dues or service fees from the pay of certain public employees; and providing for an effective date."

- BILL HEARING CANCELED

HOUSE BILL NO. 63

"An Act repealing the Workers' Compensation Appeals Commission; relating to decisions and orders of the Workers' Compensation Appeals Commission; relating to superior court jurisdiction over appeals from Alaska Workers' Compensation Board decisions; repealing Rules 201.1, 401.1, and 501.1, Alaska Rules of Appellate Procedure, and amending Rules 202(a), 204(a) - (c), 210(e), 601(b), 602(c) and (h), and 603(a), Alaska Rules of Appellate Procedure; and providing for an effective date."

- BILL HEARING CANCELED

HOUSE BILL NO. 87

"An Act relating to record checks for certain employees of the Department of Revenue; relating to permanent fund dividends; and providing for an effective date."

- BILL HEARING CANCELED

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: HB 86

SHORT TITLE: MONEY TRANSMISSION; VIRTUAL CURRENCY

SPONSOR(s): RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

02/27/23	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/27/23	(H)	L&C, FIN
03/08/23	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
03/08/23	(H)	Heard & Held
03/08/23	(H)	MINUTE(L&C)
03/17/23	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

BILL: HB 85

SHORT TITLE: PROFESSIONAL LICENSING; TEMP PERMITS

SPONSOR(s): RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

02/27/23	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/27/23	(H)	L&C, FIN
03/08/23	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
03/08/23	(H)	Heard & Held
03/08/23	(H)	MINUTE(L&C)
03/10/23	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
03/10/23	(H)	Heard & Held
03/10/23	(H)	MINUTE(L&C)
03/17/23	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

BILL: HB 99

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

SPONSOR(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

**WITNESS REGISTER**

ROBERT SCHMIDT, Director  
 Division of Banking and Securities  
 Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development  
 Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** On behalf of the sponsor, House Rules by request of the governor, co-presented the sectional analysis for HB 86 in a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions.

TRACY RENO, Examinations Chief  
 Division of Banking and Securities  
 Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development  
 Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** On behalf of the sponsor, House Rules by request of the governor, co-presented the sectional analysis for HB 86 in a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions.

SYLVAN ROBB, Director  
 Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing  
 Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development  
 Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Answered questions on HB 85.

ERICK CORDERO GIORGANA  
 Alaska Policy Forum

Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified during the hearing on HB 85.

REPRESENTATIVE JENNIE ARMSTRONG

Alaska State Legislature

Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** As prime sponsor, introduced HB 99 and co-presented 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, co-presented a PowerPoint, titled "HB 99: LGBTQ+ Nondiscrimination."

#### **ACTION NARRATIVE**

[3:15:34 PM](#)

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

#### **HB 86-MONEY TRANSMISSION; VIRTUAL CURRENCY**

[3:16:17 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the first order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 86, "An Act relating to the business of money transmission; relating to money transmission licenses, licensure requirements, and registration through the Nationwide Multistate Licensing System and Registry; relating to the use of virtual currency for money transmission; relating to authorized delegates of a licensee; relating to acquisition of control of a license; relating to record retention and reporting requirements; authorizing the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development to cooperate with other states in the regulation of money transmission; relating to permissible investments; relating to violations and enforcement of money transmission laws; relating to money transmission license exemptions; relating to payroll processing services; repealing currency exchange licenses; and providing for an effective date."

[3:16:44 PM](#)

ROBERT SCHMIDT, Director, Division of Banking and Securities, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, on behalf of the sponsor, House Rules by request of the governor, co-presented the sectional analysis for HB 86 in a PowerPoint presentation [hard copy included in the committee packet].

[3:17:00 PM](#)

TRACY RENO, Examinations Chief, Division of Banking and Securities, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, co-presented the sectional analysis in a PowerPoint. On slide 2, she gave a brief overview of the goals of the proposed legislation, which included repealing and re-enacting language to adopt the [Money Transmission Modernization Act], which was written by money transmitters and state regulators over a two-year period. Other goals include coordination with other states in regulation, licensing, and supervision; reducing the regulatory burden on Alaska businesses; protecting Alaska consumers; ensuring money transmitters are well run and compliant; and acting at the state level to prevent preemption by the federal government. On slide 3, she stated that the bill is based on the Money Transmitter Model Law ("Model Law"), which is expected to be passed or introduced by 40 states by the end of 2024.

MS. RENO continued to slide 4 and slide 5. She stated that Section 1 of the proposed legislation would modernize licensure requirements; add Model Law language for the burgeoning virtual currency industry; allow DCCED to coordinate with other states in regulation, licensing, and supervision; standardize the types of activities which are subject to licensing; and modernize safety and soundness requirements for money transmission. She stated that Section 2 through Section 4 would modify the requirements for licensure applications. She continued to slide 6 and stated that Section 5 of the proposed legislation would repeal and reenact AS 06.55.106, modifying language regarding license renewal. She explained that the cost of renewal would be based on the volume of money moved through a money transmitter. She stated that Section 6 would add new sections to AS 06.55 to provide for background checks for money transmitters, and Section 7 would add new provisions to AS 06.55 to account for business involving virtual currency.

[3:23:20 PM](#)

MS. RENO continued to slide 9, stating that Section 8 and Section 9 would repeal and reenact AS 06.55.301 and amend AS 06.55.302 to conform to the Model Law. A licensee would be allowed to sign a written contract to have an individual act as a delegate on his/her behalf. She stated that Section 10 would repeal and reenact AS 06.55.401 to provide details on examinations and reduce the regulatory burden by accepting an examination performed by another state. Sections 11 through 15 would repeal and reenact AS 06.55.403 and AS 06.55.404 to require quarterly reports and access of such information by DCCED. She said that Section 16 and Section 17 would require records to be kept for five years, while Section 18 would require licensees to comply with federal law on matters of money laundering reports. She stated that Section 19 through Section 28 would repeal and reenact, or amend, AS 06.55.407-412, 501, and 502 to provide for greater consistency between state statute and the Model Law.

[3:26:27 PM](#)

MS. RENO continued to slide 14 through slide 16 and stated that Section 29 would create credit, securities, and net worth requirements to AS 06.55, making licensees demonstrate net worth as part of their application. She said Section 30 through Section 37 would amend the penalties for regulatory violations relating to money services in AS 06.55. She stated that Section 38, Section 39, and Section 42 would amend the criminal penalties, and Section 40 and Section 41 would classify currency exchange as a form of money transmission, eliminating the need for a second license.

[3:28:20 PM](#)

MS. RENO moved to slide 17 through slide 20 and stated that Section 43 would create certain exceptions, including payroll processing. Section 44 would allow the department to require documentation demonstrating the stated exception. She said that Section 45 and Section 46 would require licensees to provide customers with notices of how to file a complaint, should they have one. If done by telephone, she said, Section 47 would require the determination of the state of the transaction. She continued that Section 48 through Section 50 would require receipt availability, timely transmission of funds, and outline of refunds consistent with the Model Law.

[3:30:39 PM](#)

MS. RENO moved to slide 21 through slide 24 and stated that Section 54 through Section 62 would modify definitions of the terms of control to be consistent with the Model Law. These terms include money transmission, payment instrument, person, state, and stored value. She stated that Section 63 would create a short title for the bill, Section 64 would require background checks for money transmitters and money transmission employment, and Section 65 would list repealed statutes rendered unnecessary by the legislation. She said that Section 66 through Section 70 would create effective dates and a period of transition for new regulations.

[3:32:42 PM](#)

MR. SCHMIDT continued to slide 25 and slide 26 and gave a brief overview of the money transmission volume in Alaska. He reiterated that the proposed legislation is important because it would protect consumers, reduce regulatory burden, and place states on the same playing field without the need for federal intervention.

[3:34:38 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX asked why this type of legislation should be handled at the state level rather than the federal level, and whether individual states could change certain aspects of the legislation.

MR. SCHMIDT answered that states still could have their own statutes. He stated that both the industry and states have an interest in solving the issue without the intervention of the federal government because of their proximity to the consumer.

[3:36:22 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER questioned how there would be an assurance that the funds are available if a transaction is across state lines.

MR. SCHMIDT answered that money transmitters would have daily transmission liability, which would be reported to DCCED.

MS. RENO added that the Division of Banking and Securities conducts multi-state examinations to ensure regulations are being followed.

CHAIR SUMNER asked if money being held in other states could create jurisdictional issues.

MR. SCHMIDT answered that bonding requirements and examinations are designed to prevent such occurrences.

[3:39:16 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE asked whether the proposed legislation would create new types of licenses.

MR. SCHMIDT answered that it would not; however, some license types will be combined into a single license. In response to a follow-up question, he stated that the regulatory burden would be reduced by using the same regulations for money transmission from state to state. In response to a follow-up question, he stated that new regulations would be created.

[3:41:22 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK questioned the number of states which are using or plan to use the Model Law. He questioned whether there is a similarity in the wording to HB 86.

MR. SCHMIDT answered that 40 states have passed or are planning to introduce similar legislation, with Arizona's legislation nearly identical to HB 86. In response to a follow-up question, he expressed the opinion that DCCED would be a better place to enact these regulations, rather than the federal government.

[3:44:29 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT asked how a money transmission could be determined to be fraudulent.

MS. RENO answered that money transmitters may receive information which indicates fraud, and it must act on such information if it is reasonably believed to be fraud. In response to a follow-up question, she said that everything in a fraud investigation is well documented.

[3:47:05 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced HB 86 was held over.

**HB 85-PROFESSIONAL LICENSING; TEMP PERMITS**

[3:47:25 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the next order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 85, "An Act relating to professional licensing; relating to temporary licenses for some professions; and providing for an effective date."

[3:47:55 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE moved to adopt Amendment 1 to HB 85, labeled 33-GH1614\A.1, Bergerud, 3/13/23, which read as follows:

Page 1, line 10:

Delete "or territory of the United States or province  
or territory of Canada"

There being no objection, Amendment 1 to HB 85 was adopted.

[3:48:09 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 3:48 p.m. to 3:49 p.m.

[3:49:26 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX moved to reconsider Amendment 1 to HB 85.

[3:49:46 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 3:49 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.

[3:50:13 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Prax, Ruffridge, Saddler, Wright, Carrick, and Sumner voted in favor of reconsideration of Amendment 1 to HB 85. Therefore, reconsideration of Amendment 1 to HB 85 was passed by a vote of 6-0.

[3:51:03 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER objected to Amendment 1 for the purpose of discussion.

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE explained that Amendment 1 would remove the provision allowing a temporary license to be offered to an individual from a state in which a license for the occupation is not required.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER removed his objection.

[3:52:02 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX objected to Amendment 1. He stated that the goal of the bill would be to allow qualified people to work in the state without having to go through a longer application process.

[3:53:05 PM](#)

SYLVAN ROBB, Director, Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, stated that the bill would require documentation which proves an individual meets the standards set forth by the state to receive a temporary license.

[3:53:48 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK asked for an example of an occupation in a scenario where this would be applicable.

MS. ROBB responded that massage therapists require a license in 45 states, while naturopaths require a license in only 20 states. In response to a follow-up question, she said naturopaths require licensure in Alaska.

[3:54:45 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER expressed the belief that the amendment would protect the people of Alaska, because it would be a burden to request the division to judge another state's qualifications, when the state may not have similar licensing as Alaska.

[3:55:33 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX asked whether the amendment would allow an individual to work sooner if this individual had the necessary qualification from a state without licensing.

MS. ROBB answered that such an individual would need a temporary license to begin working sooner than they would otherwise be able to. She added that the amendment would remove the option for such an individual to receive a temporary license.

[3:57:46 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE commented that Amendment 1 would still allow for temporary licenses to be issued to individuals from jurisdictions which require licensing. He expressed agreement with Representative Saddler's point, that asking the division to evaluate unlicensed individuals would be a difficult task.

[3:59:27 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX maintained his objection to Amendment 1.

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Ruffridge, Saddler, Wright, Carrick, and Sumner voted in favor of Amendment 1 to HB 85. Representative Prax voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 1 was adopted by a vote of 5-1.

[4:00:14 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE moved to adopt Amendment 2 to HB 85, as amended, labeled 33-GH1614\A.2, Bergerud, 3/13/23, which read as follows:

Page 2, line 3, following "state;":  
Insert "or"

Page 2, lines 4 - 7:  
Delete all material.

Reletter the following subparagraph accordingly.

[4:00:20 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK objected. She asked whether references to Canadian jurisdictions would be removed throughout the entire bill.

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE answered yes.

[4:01:51 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK asked whether Canadian jurisdictions had significantly different requirements than those within the United States.

MS. ROBB expressed uncertainty.

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE answered that certain licenses for medical professions differ significantly in certain aspects, such as testing.

[4:04:01 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER commented that asking the division to evaluate Canadian jurisdictional requirements would be challenging and expressed his support for the amendment.

[4:04:50 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX asked whether territories of the U.S. have less rigorous licensure requirements.

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE answered that U.S. territories generally have close requirements to those of the states.

[4:05:59 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK maintained her objection.

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Prax, Ruffridge, Wright, Saddler, and Sumner voted in favor of Amendment 2 to HB 85, as amended. Representative Carrick voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 2 was adopted by a vote of 5-1.

[4:06:43 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER moved to adopt Amendment 3 to HB 85, as amended, labeled 33-GH1614\A.3, Bergerud, 3/13/23, which read as follows:

Page 2, lines 24 - 26:

Delete "The department may consider an application and grant a temporary license before obtaining any resulting report."

[4:06:47 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK objected for the purpose of discussion. She requested an explanation of the amendment.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER expressed the opinion that a criminal background check should take place before the issuance of a temporary license.

[4:07:40 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK asked whether waiting for a background check would be a hindrance to the intent of the bill.

MS. ROBB expressed the opinion that it would. She said that the division issues full licenses to individuals while awaiting background checks and added licenses could be revoked if a negative result was returned. She stated that many other states also require background checks, and individuals from these jurisdictions would have gone through a previous background check. She added that the only temporary license issued to a profession requiring a background check is for nurses.

[4:11:20 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX asked what types of criminal activity would cause an individual to be disqualified.

MS. ROBB answered that it varies between different professions. She said that typically, there would need to be some type of correlation between the crime and the occupation, such as a certified public accountant committing embezzlement.

[4:12:40 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER questioned, if there are few causes for a denial of license issuance, what is the purpose of having criminal background checks for nurses.

MS. ROBB answered that it encourages truthfulness on the license application.

[4:13:31 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE commented that he would not support the amendment because of the potential harm to the cause of the bill.

[4:14:30 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representative Saddler voted in favor of Amendment 3 to HB 85, as amended. Representatives Wright, Carrick, Prax, Ruffridge, and Sumner voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 3 failed by a vote of 1-5.

[4:15:05 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER moved to adopt Amendment 4 to HB 85, as amended, labeled 33-GH1614\A.4, Bergerud, 3/14/23, which read as follows:

Page 1, line 10:

Delete "or province or territory of Canada"

[4:15:07 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK objected for the purpose of discussion. She requested an explanation of the amendment.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER stated that Amendment 4 would allow the department to extend the length of temporary licenses if necessary. It would create consistency with military courtesy licenses. In response to a follow-up question, he said that there would be no priority between the department and any of the occupational licensing boards.

[4:17:13 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE requested a description of the licensing process and which boards issue licenses.

MS. ROBB answered that the processes for the different boards vary, with some doing their own in-depth review of certain candidates based on responses to certain questions. She stated that the division requires documentation from any convictions, along with other necessary paperwork, such as test scores.

[4:20:13 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER commented that the amendment would apply only to extensions for temporary licenses which already had been approved.

[4:21:03 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Saddler, Wright, and Sumner voted in favor of Amendment 4 to HB 85, as amended. Representatives Prax, Ruffridge, and Carrick voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 4 failed by a vote of 3-3.

[4:21:45 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER opened public testimony on HB 85.

[4:22:02 PM](#)

ERICK CORDERO GIORGANA, Alaska Policy Forum, stated that approximately one quarter of the jobs in the United States require some type of occupational licensure. He stated that moving to another state is difficult and requiring an individual to requalify for a license which he/she may already possess in another state is unnecessary. He argued that reducing licensing barriers would help low-income workers, increase competition, and have a positive effect on the economy.

[4:23:56 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER, after ascertaining there was no one else who wished to testify, closed public testimony on HB 85.

[4:24:07 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE moved to report HB 85, as amended, out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, CSHB 85(L&C) was reported from the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee.

[4:24:39 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 4:24 p.m. to 4:25 p.m.

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

[4:25:30 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER 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."

[4:25:53 PM](#)

JENNIE ARMSTRONG, Alaska State Representative, as prime sponsor, introduced HB 99 and presented the PowerPoint titled "HB 99: LGBTQ+ Nondiscrimination" [hard copy included in committee packet]. Pointing to slide 2, she stated that Alaska currently allows discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender expression, and gender identity, and the bill would align the state with a previous Supreme Court decision ruling that

discrimination based on these factors is inherently discrimination based on sex. She offered that religious organizations would not be affected by the change, and the Alaska Commission on Human Rights does not oversee schools or education. She said that this commission oversees employment, housing, financing, government practices, and public accommodation.

[4:28:38 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE ARMSTRONG continued to slide 3 through slide 5 and expressed the opinion that discrimination is bad for business and the economy. She said that Alaska has seen 10 years of outmigration, and she argued preventing discrimination would make Alaska a better place to raise a family. She stated that the proposed legislation would place Alaska into alignment with major Alaskan employers and Fortune 500 companies. She stated that a statewide solution is required because not all communities have the legal authority to pass nondiscrimination ordinances.

[4:31:27 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE ARMSTRONG continued to slide 6 through slide 9 and stated that Alaska ranks 25th for the number of same-sex couples per 1,000 households. She said that 73 percent of people surveyed in Anchorage have reported hiding their sexual orientation or gender identity. Nearly half of those surveyed reported workplace harassment due to these factors. She pointed out the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Bostock v. Clayton County, 590 U.S. 644 (2020), that these forms of discrimination are discrimination against sex as a whole. She continued to slide 10 and slide 11 and stated that sex is a protected class against discrimination under the Alaska Commission for Human Rights. She stated that HB 99 would codify these protections, aligning with the U.S. Supreme Court ruling. She explained that the attorney general and Alaska Department of Law held that legislation would be necessary to enact those changes in Alaska.

[4:36:22 PM](#)

TRISTAN WALSH, Staff, Representative Armstrong, Alaska State Legislature, on behalf of Representative Armstrong, prime sponsor, co-presenting the PowerPoint, moved to slide 12. He stated that HB 99 would update the definition of "sex" [found] in AS 18.80.300 to include "sexual orientation, gender, [and] identity or gender expression." He explained that the proposed

legislation would align the state with the U. S. Supreme Court's ruling. He also pointed out other similar cases and laws in the county. He explained how the definitions in the proposed legislation would be expanded, directing attention to the complications concerning sexual orientation and gender, as it is "innate and can't be changed." He stated that the proposed legislation also would make conforming changes to the definition of "blockbusting" in reference to real estate.

[HB 99 was held over.]

[4:39:16 PM](#)

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the committee, the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m.