

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

April 14, 2023

3:17 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. 112

"An Act relating to the Board of Pharmacy; relating to the practice of pharmacy; relating to pharmacies; relating to prescription drug manufacturers; relating to prescriptions for epinephrine; relating to the administration of epinephrine; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED CSHB 112(L&C) OUT OF COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 145

"An Act relating to loans in an amount of \$25,000 or less; relating to deferred deposit advances; and providing for an effective date."

- HEARD & HELD

HOUSE BILL NO. 149

"An Act relating to the licensure of nursing professionals; relating to a multistate nurse licensure compact; and providing for an effective date."

- HEARD & HELD

HOUSE BILL NO. 88

"An Act relating to work quotas for employees at warehouse distribution centers; and providing for an effective date."

- HEARD & HELD

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."

- MOVED CSHB 87(L&C) OUT OF COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 60

"An Act relating to the licensing of runaway shelters; relating to advisors to the board of trustees of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority; relating to the sharing of confidential health information between the Department of Health and the Department of Family and Community Services; relating to the duties of the Department of Health and the Department of Family and Community Services; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED CSHB 60(HSS) OUT OF COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 21

"An Act relating to group insurance coverage and self-insurance coverage for school district employees, employees of the University of Alaska, and employees of other governmental units in the state; and providing for an effective date."

- HEARD & HELD

HOUSE BILL NO. 97

"An Act relating to self-storage facilities for personal property, including vehicles and watercraft; distinguishing self-storage facility liens from another type of storage lien; and excluding self-storage liens from the treatment of certain unclaimed property."

- HEARD & HELD

HOUSE BILL NO. 150

"An Act relating to residential building codes; relating to construction contractors and residential contractor endorsements; and providing for an effective date."

- BILL HEARING CANCELED

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: HB 112

SHORT TITLE: PROFESSION OF PHARMACY

SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) RUFFRIDGE

03/13/23 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
03/13/23 (H) HSS, L&C  
03/23/23 (H) HSS AT 3:00 PM DAVIS 106  
03/23/23 (H) Heard & Held  
03/23/23 (H) MINUTE(HSS)  
03/28/23 (H) HSS AT 3:00 PM DAVIS 106  
03/28/23 (H) Moved HB 112 Out of Committee  
03/28/23 (H) MINUTE(HSS)  
03/29/23 (H) HSS RPT 5DP  
03/29/23 (H) DP: MINA, RUFFRIDGE, SUMNER, FIELDS,  
PRAX  
04/05/23 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124  
04/05/23 (H) -- MEETING CANCELED --  
04/10/23 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124  
04/10/23 (H) Heard & Held  
04/10/23 (H) MINUTE(L&C)  
04/12/23 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124  
04/12/23 (H) Heard & Held  
04/12/23 (H) MINUTE(L&C)  
04/14/23 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

BILL: HB 145

SHORT TITLE: LOANS UNDER \$25,000; PAYDAY LOANS

SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) WRIGHT

03/29/23 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
03/29/23 (H) L&C  
04/14/23 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

BILL: HB 149

SHORT TITLE: NURSING: LICENSURE; MULTISTATE COMPACT

SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) PRAX

03/31/23 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
03/31/23 (H) MLV, L&C  
04/03/23 (H) MLV REFERRAL MOVED TO AFTER L&C  
04/03/23 (H) BILL REPRINTED  
04/07/23 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124  
04/07/23 (H) -- MEETING CANCELED --  
04/12/23 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124  
04/12/23 (H) Heard & Held  
04/12/23 (H) MINUTE(L&C)  
04/14/23 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

BILL: HB 88

SHORT TITLE: WAREHOUSE WORK QUOTA INFORMATION

SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) RAUSCHER

02/27/23	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/27/23	(H)	L&C, JUD
03/29/23	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
03/29/23	(H)	Heard & Held
03/29/23	(H)	MINUTE(L&C)
04/10/23	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
04/10/23	(H)	<Bill Hearing Canceled>
04/12/23	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
04/12/23	(H)	Heard & Held
04/12/23	(H)	MINUTE(L&C)
04/14/23	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

BILL: HB 87

SHORT TITLE: PERM FUND; EMPLOYMENT; ELIGIBILITY

SPONSOR(s): RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

02/27/23	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/27/23	(H)	L&C, FIN
03/10/23	(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
03/17/23	(H)	<Bill Hearing Canceled>
04/03/23	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
04/03/23	(H)	-- MEETING CANCELED --
04/05/23	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
04/05/23	(H)	-- MEETING CANCELED --
04/10/23	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
04/10/23	(H)	Heard & Held
04/10/23	(H)	MINUTE(L&C)
04/14/23	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

BILL: HB 60

SHORT TITLE: RUNAWAYS; DFCS/DOH: DUTIES/LICENSING/INFO

SPONSOR(s): RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

02/03/23	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/03/23	(H)	HSS, FIN
02/28/23	(H)	HSS AT 3:00 PM DAVIS 106
02/28/23	(H)	Heard & Held
02/28/23	(H)	MINUTE(HSS)
03/07/23	(H)	HSS AT 3:00 PM DAVIS 106

03/07/23 (H) Heard & Held  
 03/07/23 (H) MINUTE(HSS)  
 03/14/23 (H) HSS AT 3:00 PM DAVIS 106  
 03/14/23 (H) <Bill Hearing Canceled>  
 03/23/23 (H) HSS AT 3:00 PM DAVIS 106  
 03/23/23 (H) Moved CSHB 60(HSS) Out of Committee  
 03/23/23 (H) MINUTE(HSS)  
 03/27/23 (H) HSS RPT CS(HSS) 1DP 5NR  
 03/27/23 (H) DP: PRAX  
 03/27/23 (H) NR: FIELDS, SUMNER, RUFFRIDGE, SADDLER,  
 MINA  
 03/27/23 (H) L&C REPLACES FIN REFERRAL  
 03/27/23 (H) BILL REPRINTED  
 04/03/23 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124  
 04/03/23 (H) -- MEETING CANCELED --  
 04/05/23 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124  
 04/05/23 (H) -- MEETING CANCELED --  
 04/10/23 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124  
 04/10/23 (H) Heard & Held  
 04/10/23 (H) MINUTE(L&C)  
 04/14/23 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

BILL: HB 21

SHORT TITLE: SCHOOL/UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSUR

SPONSOR(s): VANCE

01/19/23 (H) PREFILE RELEASED 1/9/23  
 01/19/23 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
 01/19/23 (H) CRA, EDC, L&C  
 01/27/23 (H) CRA REFERRAL REMOVED  
 01/27/23 (H) BILL REPRINTED  
 03/13/23 (H) EDC AT 8:00 AM DAVIS 106  
 03/13/23 (H) Heard & Held  
 03/13/23 (H) MINUTE(EDC)  
 03/27/23 (H) EDC AT 8:00 AM DAVIS 106  
 03/27/23 (H) Moved HB 21 Out of Committee  
 03/27/23 (H) MINUTE(EDC)  
 03/29/23 (H) EDC RPT 2DP 4NR  
 03/29/23 (H) DP: MCKAY, ALLARD  
 03/29/23 (H) NR: HIMSCHOOT, STORY, PRAX, RUFFRIDGE  
 04/03/23 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124  
 04/03/23 (H) -- MEETING CANCELED --  
 04/05/23 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124  
 04/05/23 (H) -- MEETING CANCELED --  
 04/12/23 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124  
 04/12/23 (H) Heard & Held  
 04/12/23 (H) MINUTE(L&C)

04/14/23 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

BILL: HB 97

SHORT TITLE: SELF-STORAGE UNITS: LIENS; SALES

SPONSOR(S): PRAX

03/06/23 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
03/06/23 (H) L&C, JUD  
03/24/23 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124  
03/24/23 (H) Heard & Held  
03/24/23 (H) MINUTE(L&C)  
04/14/23 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

**WITNESS REGISTER**

PI RIORDAN-RANDALL, Staff  
Representative Stanley Wright  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** On behalf of Representative Wright, prime sponsor, gave the sectional analysis on HB 145.

GRAHAM DOWNEY  
Alaska Public Interest Research Group  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave invited testimony during the hearing on HB 145.

LEIGH DICKEY, Advocacy Director  
Alaska Legal Services Corporation  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave invited testimony during the hearing on HB 145.

RILEY NYE, Staff  
Representative Mike Prax  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** On behalf of Representative Prax, prime sponsor, concluded the PowerPoint presentation, title "House Bill 149: Nurse Licensure Compact."

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

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Answered questions during the hearing on HB 149.

WENDY MERCER, Chief Nursing Officer  
North Star Behavioral Health System  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

RACHAEL KINCAID, Chief Nursing Officer  
South Peninsula Hospital  
Homer, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

GRACE HALSTEAD, representing self  
Homer, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

MARY WILLIS, Long Term Care Administrator  
Utugqanaat Inaat  
Kotzebue, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

BETSY WOOD, representing self  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

ROBERT LANG, Emergency Room Nurse Manager  
Wrangell Medical Center  
Wrangell, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of Alaska during the hearing on HB 149.

STARLA FOX, Chief Nursing Officer  
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation  
Dillingham, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

JENNIFER BRYNER, Chief Nursing Officer  
Petersburg Medical Center  
Petersburg, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

BRENDA SHELDEN, Board Member  
Alaska Pioneer Home Advisory Board  
Palmer, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

LISBETH JACKSON, representing self  
Palmer, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

TRACY DOMPELING, Chief Behavioral Health Officer  
Bartlett Memorial Hospital  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

SAVANNAH COURTRIGHT, representing self  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

CARRIE PELUSO, Chief Nursing Officer  
Providence Alaska Medical Center  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

JENNIFER MOONEY, Executive Director of Operations  
Providence Kodiak Island Medical Center  
Kodiak, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

MAUREEN PETERSON, representing self  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in opposition to HB 149.

MILDRED HENNINGS, representing self  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in opposition to HB 149.

MELISSA GRAY, representing self  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in opposition to HB 149.

JARED KOSIN, President and CEO  
Alaska Hospital and Healthcare Association  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

DANETTE SCHLOEDER, Chair  
Alaska Board of Nursing  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

THERESA GLEASON, representing self  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

ROBIN MINARD, Chief Communications Officer  
Matsu Health Foundation  
Wasilla, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

KIMBERLY KLUCKMAN, representing self  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in opposition to HB 149.

BRITANY WALTERS, representing self  
Homer, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

JOELLE HALL, President  
Alaska American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial  
Organizations  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in opposition to HB 149.

ROSS NEWCOMBE, CEO  
North Star Behavioral Health System  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

BRUCE SEETON, representing self  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in opposition to HB 149.

NATALIE PORTNER, Director of Critical Care Services  
MatSu Regional Medical Center  
Wasilla, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

MICHELE GIRAULT, CEO  
Hope Community Resources  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

AMBER KIERKEGAARD, Director of Nursing

Maple Springs of Palmer  
Palmer, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

AMANDA NETH, representing self  
Kodiak, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

NINA MAUS, CFO  
North Star Behavioral Health System  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

CHRISTI LEPLEY, Director of Human Resources  
North Star Behavioral Health System  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

DENISE PLANO, Chief Nursing Officer  
Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium  
Wrangell Medical Center  
Wrangell, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

NICOLE WELCH, Chief Human Resource Officer  
Foundation Health Partners  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

CRAIG CALDWELL, representing self  
Homer, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

COURTNEY TABER, Nursing Manager  
Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium  
Juneau Medical Center  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

SHANNON DAVENPORT, representing self  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in opposition to HB 149.

DON THIBEDEAU, Social Worker  
Denali Center  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

MARGE STONEKING, Lobbyist  
AARP Alaska  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

LAURA BONNER, representing self  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in opposition to HB 149.

KIM ROBSON, representing self  
Petersburg, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 149.

REPRESENTATIVE GEORGE RAUSCHER  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** As prime sponsor, answered questions during the hearing on HB 88.

RYAN MCKEE, Staff  
Representative George Rauscher  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** On behalf of Representative Rauscher, prime sponsor, answered questions during the hearing on HB 88.

PATRICK FITZGERALD, Representative  
Teamsters 959  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Answered questions during the hearing on HB 88.

COREY BIGELOW, Operations Manager  
Permanent Fund Dividend Division  
Department of Revenue  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Answered questions during the hearing on HB 87, Version S.

WILLIAM BREWER  
Fairbanks Storage  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 97.

DANIEL BRYANT, Legal and Legislative Council  
Self Storage Association  
Alexandria, Virginia

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 97.

WENDIE MACNAUGHTON, Co-owner  
Lulu Storage  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 97.

NATHANIEL DYE  
Juneau Self Storage  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 97.

SHARON BEAMAN, Manager  
North Pole Self Storage  
North Pole, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave public testimony in support of HB 97.

#### **ACTION NARRATIVE**

[3:17:11 PM](#)

**CHAIR JESSE SUMNER** called the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting to order at 2:50 p.m. Representatives Prax, Wright, Ruffridge, and Sumner were present at the call to order. Representatives Fields, Saddler, and Carrick arrived as the meeting was in progress.

#### **HB 112-PROFESSION OF PHARMACY**

[3:18:07 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the first order of business would be HB 112, "An Act relating to the Board of Pharmacy; relating to the practice of pharmacy; relating to pharmacies; relating to prescription drug manufacturers; relating to prescriptions for epinephrine; relating to the administration of epinephrine; and providing for an effective date."

[3:18:29 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE, as prime sponsor, stated that HB 112 is part of a multi-year process and has the support of the Board of Pharmacy.

[3:19:15 PM](#)

The committee took a brief at-ease.

[3:19:53 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX moved to adopt Amendment 1 to HB 112, labeled, 33-LS0600\A.1, Bergerud, 4/13/23, which read as follows:

Page 1, line 2, following "**manufacturers;**":

Insert "**relating to licensing and registration requirements for certain wholesale drug distributors;**"

Page 4, following line 11:

Insert a new bill section to read:

"\* **Sec. 4.** AS 08.80.157(h) is amended to read:

(h) The board may suspend, revoke, deny, or refuse to renew the license of a facility or pharmacy on the following grounds:

(1) the finding by the board of violations of a federal, state, or local law relating to the practice of pharmacy, drug samples, wholesale or retail drug or device distribution, or distribution of controlled substances;

(2) a felony conviction under federal, state, or local law of an owner of the facility or pharmacy or of an employee of the facility or pharmacy;

(3) the furnishing of false or fraudulent material in an application made in connection with drug or device manufacturing or distribution;

(4) suspension or revocation by federal, state, or local government of a license currently or previously held by the applicant for the manufacture or distribution of drugs or devices, including controlled substances;

(5) obtaining remuneration by fraud, misrepresentation, or deception;

(6) dealing with drugs or devices that are known or should have been known to be stolen drugs or devices;

(7) dispensing or distributing drugs or devices directly to patients by a wholesale drug distributor other than a pharmacy **unless**

(A) the drug or device is a dialysate, drug composed solely of fluids, electrolytes, and sugars, or device that is

(i) necessary to perform home dialysis;  
(ii) approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration, as required by federal law; and  
(iii) delivered in its original, sealed, and labeled packaging only upon the receipt of a physician's order; and

(B) the wholesale drug distributor

(i) delivers the dialysate drug or device directly to a patient with end-stage renal disease, or to the patient's designee, for the patient's self-administration of dialysis therapy;

(ii) uses a bar code scanning and verification system confirming that the dialysate drug or device selected to fill the patient-specific order matches the information on the patient-specific label; and

(iii) has additional secondary accuracy and delivery checks in place; and

(C) a licensed pharmacist serves as a consultant to the wholesale drug distributor to

(i) conduct a retrospective audit of 10 percent of the dialysate drug and device orders provided directly to patients processed by the wholesale drug distributor every month; and

(ii) perform assessments at least twice monthly to ensure quality of product storage, handling, and distribution by the wholesale drug distributor, and to ensure product expiration dates are later than three months after the date of assessment;

(8) violation of this chapter or a regulation adopted under this chapter."

Re-number the following bill sections accordingly.

Page 9, line 20:

Delete "sec. 18"

Insert "sec. 19"

Page 9, line 21:

Delete "sec. 18"

Insert "sec. 19"

Page 9, line 31:

Delete "Section 20"  
Insert "Section 21"

Page 9, following line 31:

Insert a new bill section to read:

"\* **Sec. 23.** Section 4 of this Act takes effect  
May 7, 2023."

Renumber the following bill section accordingly.

Page 10, line 1:

Delete "sec. 21"

Insert "secs. 22 and 23"

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE objected for the purpose of discussion.

[3:20:26 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX explained that Amendment 1 would enable home dialysis distributors to do so directly with the patient.

[3:21:48 PM](#)

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

[3:22:11 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE moved to report HB 112, as amended, out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, CSHB 112(L&C) was reported from the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee.

**HB 145-LOANS UNDER \$25,000; PAYDAY LOANS**

[3:22:35 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the next order of business would be HB 145, "An Act relating to loans in an amount of \$25,000 or less; relating to deferred deposit advances; and providing for an effective date."

[3:23:42 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT, as prime sponsor, introduced HB 145 and stated that the proposed legislation would address predatory

payday lending. He explained that payday loans have extraordinarily high interest rates, and as a result these loans cost a great deal more to pay back than most other loans. He said that payday loan lenders are currently exempt from the statutes regarding loans. He estimated that 15,000 Alaskans take out these loans on an annual basis. He said that HB 145 would remove these payday loan exemptions.

[3:26:05 PM](#)

PI RIORDAN-RANDALL, Staff, Representative Stanley Wright, Alaska State Legislature, on behalf of Representative Wright, prime sponsor, gave the sectional analysis for HB 145. He stated that Sections 1, 2, and 6 would remove references to the Differed Deposits Advances Act (DDAA); Section 3 would define lenders subject to the bill; Section 4 would provide the level of interest caps; Section 5 would provide that interest rates exceeding those provided in statute, would become unenforceable; and Section 7 would prevent lenders from using fees to circumvent the maximum interest rates. He concluded, stating that Section 8 would repeal DDAA, and Section 9 would provide an effective date.

[3:29:44 PM](#)

GRAHAM DOWNEY, Alaska Public Interest Research Group, provided invited testimony on HB 145. He briefly explained the process of acquiring a short-term loan. He stated that such loans are used for things like rental deposits, groceries, childcare, and car repairs. Because these payday loans require repayment in two weeks, he suggested that it can place a strain on a person who needs this money to pay for rent or other expenses. He said that paying back a partial amount is all some people may have the ability to do. Interest is then applied despite some of the money being paid back. He estimated that the average Alaskan takes five such loans annually, taking an average of five months to pay them back. He stated that payday loans average \$29 million in revenue annually.

[3:35:37 PM](#)

LEIGH DICKEY, Advocacy Director, Alaska Legal Services, provided invited testimony on HB 145. She stated that Alaska Legal Services has 50 offices across the state. She expressed the understanding that payday loans target low-income individuals, and these individuals must often take more loans in order to pay back their previous loans. She reiterated that payday loans are

usually taken out for emergency expenses, which often result in financial problems becoming worse because of the interest rates. She advised that the interest can often reach rates of over 400 percent. She said that 18 other states have enacted small loan legislation with an interest rate cap of 36 percent.

[3:40:19 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS requested a market comparison of online loans versus physical payday loan stores.

MS. DICKEY answered that 70 percent of payday loans in the state are taken via online sources, with 30 percent being taken from physical locations. In response to a follow-up question, she said that individuals do not often seek the services of Alaska Legal Services for help with any type of debt. This is because of the belief that the only way to clear debt is to pay it back.

[3:42:04 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX questioned, if the bill were passed, what would happen if payday loaners decided to stop lending.

MS. DICKEY expressed uncertainty.

MR. DOWNEY responded that consumers in other states found other options, which were often less expensive.

[3:44:37 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK questioned whether online payday loan lenders gain access to the bank accounts of borrowers.

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT expressed the opinion that lenders often find ways to take the permanent fund dividends of borrowers.

MR. DOWNEY expressed uncertainty about the specific details.

[3:46:52 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER inquired about the occupations of those who most often take out payday loans.

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT answered that he was unaware of specific numbers but said that it is common for military personnel to use these types of loans.

MR. DOWNEY added that close to half of those in the military have taken out a payday loan, although military personnel are protected by federal laws. He said that he is unaware of demographic data related to borrowers.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked whether there are federal laws protecting borrowers who are not military personnel.

MR. DOWNEY expressed uncertainty concerning such laws.

[3:49:18 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS commented that laws were passed in 2006; however, payday lenders found loopholes.

[3:49:43 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that HB 145 was held over.

**HB 149-NURSING: LICENSURE; MULTISTATE COMPACT**

[3:49:57 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the next order of business would be HB 149, "An Act relating to the licensure of nursing professionals; relating to a multistate nurse licensure compact; and providing for an effective date."

[3:50:52 PM](#)

RILEY NYE, Staff, Representative Mike Prax, Alaska State Legislature, on behalf of Representative Prax, prime sponsor, concluded the PowerPoint presentation from the previous meeting, titled "House Bill 149: Nurse Licensure Compact" [hard copy included in the committee packet]. He began on slide 11 and warned that Alaska's nursing vacancies would continue to rise if Alaska does not join the nursing licensure compact (NLC). He explained that Alaska is one of the few states to not be a member, and this makes it more difficult to attract nurses to the state. He pointed out that NLC would not have a negative impact on the sovereignty of Alaska, adding that if Alaska does not join the compact, the possible number of nursing instructors would be lowered.

[3:53:57 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS asked whether joining NLC could cause an Alaskan who performs a legal abortion in Alaska to potentially be subject to prosecution in another state where abortion is not legal.

[3:55:35 PM](#)

SYLVAN ROBB, Director, Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, answered that nurses with a multistate license would be required to follow the laws of the state where they are practicing, while they are practicing in that state.

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS expressed concern that an Alaskan who previously practiced in a state, such as Texas, could be prosecuted by Texas if this individual performs a legal abortion in Alaska.

[3:56:57 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX asked whether there is a court ruling which would allow such a scenario.

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS answered that his example comes from a brief published by the National Law Review.

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX expressed the opinion that such a scenario is unlikely.

[3:58:08 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER questioned the source of the number of projected nursing vacancies.

MS. ROBB answered that the current number of vacancies comes from the Alaska Department of Labor, and the projected number comes from the website, registerdnurses.org.

[3:59:33 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER opened public testimony on HB 149.

[4:00:06 PM](#)

WENDY MERCER, Chief Nursing Officer, North Star Behavioral Health System, expressed support for HB 149 because it would allow nurses to have more opportunities and advance their

careers. It would also allow medical facilities to reduce their number of vacancies.

[4:01:35 PM](#)

RACHAEL KINCAID, Chief Nursing Officer, South Peninsula Hospital, stated that qualified nurses are being turned away because they do not meet licensure requirements. She expressed the opinion that HB 149 would help solve this problem. She continued that most nurses and the Alaska Board of Nursing support the bill.

[4:03:00 PM](#)

GRACE HALSTEAD, representing self, stated that she is a nurse in Homer, and, despite a few small downsides, she supports HB 149.

[4:04:00 PM](#)

MARY WILLIS, Long Term Care Administrator, Utuqqanaat Inaat, shared that she has been a nurse for 27 years and has previously held licensure as part of NLC. She expressed the opinion that HB 149 would help increase access to nurses for rural Alaska.

[4:05:14 PM](#)

BETSY WOOD, representing self, stated that she is a nurse in Fairbanks and has witnessed nurses waiting between four and six months to receive a nursing license in Alaska. She expressed the opinion that passing HB 149 would allow for the recruitment of experienced nurses. She added that concerns about nurses leaving the state are unfounded because these nurses already have the ability to work.

[4:06:57 PM](#)

ROBERT LANG, Emergency Room Nurse Manager, Wrangell Medical Center, expressed support for HB 149. He expressed the opinion that HB 149 would allow nurses to be licensed at a faster rate, and this would help military families moving to Alaska. He added that it would also save money for nurses wishing to practice telehealth.

[4:08:06 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS asked why previously passed legislation has not helped military families receive expedited licensure.

MR. LANG answered that he is unaware of this legislation. From his experience, he expressed the opinion that military families are not receiving licensure at an expediated rate.

[4:09:23 PM](#)

STARLA FOX, Chief Nursing Officer, Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, expressed the opinion that HB 149 would help medical facilities recruit and retain more nurses. She stated that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, medical facilities in Alaska already faced shortages. She advised that the nursing shortage equates to not enough beds being available for patients, and it means worse working conditions for nurses and worse care for Alaskan patients.

[4:12:13 PM](#)

JENNIFER BRYNER, Chief Nursing Officer, Petersburg Medical Center, said that the Petersburg Medical Center supports the passage of HB 149. She stated that the fact nurses must wait between two and three months to begin working makes it more difficult to recruit new nurses. She said that the nursing shortage is the worst she has seen in 25 years of practice in the state.

[4:14:15 PM](#)

BRENDA SHELDEN, Board Member, Alaska Pioneer Home Advisory Board, shared that she has served on the Alaska Pioneer Home Advisory Board since 2018. She stated that the Alaska Pioneer Home Advisory Board is grateful for the service of Alaskan nurses and supports the passage of HB 149.

[4:15:24 PM](#)

LISBETH JACKSON, representing self, expressed the opinion that HB 149 is common sense legislation, and it will help ease the nursing shortage. She said that the nursing shortage has resulted in new nurses being placed in positions where they do not feel comfortable. She advised that the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) nursing program does not provide enough new nurses to fill all nursing vacancies.

[4:17:35 PM](#)

TRACY DOMPELING, Chief Behavioral Health Officer, Bartlett Memorial Hospital, expressed the opinion that the inpatient mental health unit at Bartlett Memorial Hospital has been affected the most by the nursing shortage. She said that this shortage reduces the number of patients who can be treated for mental health concerns. She expressed the opinion that passing HB 149 would help attract more nurses to work in Juneau.

[4:19:37 PM](#)

SAVANNAH COURTRIGHT, representing self, expressed the opinion that passing HB 149 would help medical facilities recruit nurses with certain specialties, and she expressed support for the bill.

[4:20:38 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS asked whether Ms. Courtright believes that Providence Hospital should invest more in UAA's nursing program.

MS. COURTRIGHT answered that she is not part of management.

[4:21:23 PM](#)

CARRIE PELUSO, Chief Nursing Officer, Providence Alaska Medical Center, expressed support for HB 149. She shared that she has been a nurse in Alaska for 26 years in many different nursing positions. She pointed out that recruiting experienced nurses is vital to training new nurses. She expressed the understanding that employment agencies [which recruit nurses] have indicated they may leave [the state] because of the long wait times for processing nursing licenses. She stated that two nurses who accepted positions in Kodiak ended up taking jobs elsewhere because of the wait to acquire a nursing license in Alaska. She urged passing HB 149, as it would strengthen Alaska's ability to recruit nurses, avoiding similar situations in the future.

[4:24:16 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS questioned whether Ms. Peluso believes that Providence Hospital should invest more in UAA's nursing program.

MS. PELUSO answered yes.

[4:25:09 PM](#)

JENNIFER MOONEY, Executive Director of Operations, Providence Kodiak Island Medical Center, stated that Providence Kodiak Island Medical Center supports the passage of HB 149. She indicated this was the facility which lost two potential hires because of the long licensure wait times.

[4:26:00 PM](#)

MAUREEN PETERSON, representing self, stated that she is a former travel nurse and expressed opposition to HB 149. She expressed the opinion that NLC would lead to less nurses contributing to the licensing fund in Alaska, potentially causing licensing fees to increase.

[4:27:41 PM](#)

MILDRED HENNINGS, representing self, expressed opposition to HB 149. She expressed the belief that licensure wait times are not responsible for the nursing shortage. She expressed the opinion that Alaska nurses should remain local and joining NLC would lower the standards for Alaska nurses.

[4:29:17 PM](#)

MELISSA GRAY, representing self, expressed opposition to HB 149 because joining NLC would reduce the quality of nurses in Alaska.

[4:30:23 PM](#)

JARED KOSIN, President and CEO, Alaska Hospital and Healthcare Association (AHHA), stated that AHHA strongly supports HB 149 because it is not normal for there to be licensure waits of two to three months. He pointed out that other states which have adopted the compact have had success in reducing their nursing shortages.

[4:32:01 PM](#)

DANETTE SCHLOEDER, Chair, Alaska Board of Nursing, stated that Alaska Board of Nursing supports HB 149. She stated that the mission of the board is to promote public health in Alaska. She added that the board makes final decisions on licensing and discipline. She said that the board has vetted NLC with the opinion that it would help reduce nursing shortages in the state.

[4:34:46 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS asked how the Alaska Board of Nursing would find potential cases of nurses with fraudulent diplomas.

MS. SCHLOEDER answered that this is a complex issue, and [this fraud] may not be caught even if the nurse only applies for a single state license in Alaska.

[4:36:12 PM](#)

THERESA GLEASON, representing self, expressed support for HB 149. She shared that she has been a nurse in Alaska for 25 years. She stated that patients and nurses suffer from the nursing shortage and passing HB 149 would help reduce this.

[4:37:12 PM](#)

ROBIN MINARD, Chief Communications Officer, MatSu Health Foundation, stated that the MatSu Health Foundation supports HB 149 because of the nursing shortage. She expressed the opinion that recruiting, and retention would improve from the passage of the legislation. She argued that joining NLC would not reduce the quality-of-care Alaskans receive.

[4:39:01 PM](#)

KIMBERLY KLUCKMAN, representing self, shared that she is a nurse in the intensive care unit at Providence Medical Center. She expressed opposition to HB 149 because it would not solve the nursing shortage in Alaska. She argued that inadequate support from management is the reason nurses are leaving Alaska.

[4:40:52 PM](#)

BRITANY WALTERS, representing self, stated that she is a travel nurse working in Homer. She shared that she had to wait over a month to receive her Alaska license, during which time she was unemployed. She said that she is unsure whether she will move her residency to Alaska because the state is not reciprocating the licenses she holds in other states.

[4:42:59 PM](#)

JOELLE HALL, President, Alaska American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), stated that the

AFL-CIO opposes HB 149. She expressed the belief that the amount of advocacy for the bill is inappropriate. She said that the bylaws of NLC are unavailable to the public, and she argued that giving control to an out-of-state entity could potentially create a monopoly.

[4:45:33 PM](#)

ROSS NEWCOMBE, CEO, North Star Behavioral Health System, stated that passing HB 149 would allow Alaska to recruit nurses from other states who are members of NLC. He stated that NLC would also create greater collaboration and cooperation with medical facilities in the Lower 48.

[4:46:58 PM](#)

BRUCE SEETON, representing self, shared that he is a critical care nurse. He expressed strong opposition to HB 149. He commented that he has never seen so many members of hospital management stand together with pre-prepared statements. He expressed concern that NLC will allow management to ignore the real issues causing the nursing shortage.

[4:48:29 PM](#)

NATALIE PORTNER, Director of Critical Care Services, MatSu Regional Medical Center, shared that she was a travel nurse and critical care nurse for over 25 years and has experienced the difficulty of acquiring a nursing license. She said that NLC would increase Alaska's access to experienced nurses. She stated that MatSu Regional Medical Center has lost potential nursing recruits because of the long wait times for nursing licenses.

[4:50:30 PM](#)

MICHELE GIRAULT, CEO, Hope Community Resources, stated that Hope Community Resources supports the passage of HB 149. She stated that the organization has struggled to retain nurses, and many nurses are set to retire. She expressed the opinion that passing HB 149 would open opportunities to find nurses willing to experience Alaska. She suggested that these nurses may fall in love with the state and stay.

[4:52:45 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 4:52 p.m. to 4:59 p.m.

[4:59:09 PM](#)

AMBER KIRKEGAARD, Director of Nursing, Maple Springs of Palmer, stated that Alaskan medical facilities are competing with each other for nurses, and the backlog of nursing licenses is causing the loss of ability to recruit new nurses to Alaska. She expressed the opinion that passing HB 149 would bring more nurses to Alaska and help with the nursing shortage.

[5:01:29 PM](#)

AMANDA NETH, representing self, shared that she is a registered nurse in Kodiak and supports the passage of HB 149. She said that HB 149 would help spouses of military service members become nurses in Alaska.

[5:02:39 PM](#)

NINA MAUS, CFO, North Star Behavioral Health System, stated that participation in NLC would allow Alaskan medical facilities to recruit nurses from outside of Alaska.

[5:03:27 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS questioned what is responsible for the nursing shortages at North Star Behavioral Health System.

MS. MAUS expressed uncertainty.

[5:03:59 PM](#)

CHRISTI LEPLEY, Director of Human Resources, North Star Behavioral Health System, stated that joining NLC would streamline the process of hiring new nurses from member states. She said that she has witnessed nurses not choosing employment in Alaska because of the long wait times to receive a nursing license.

[5:05:43 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS questioned registered nurse wage levels at North Star Behavioral Health System.

MS. LEPLEY answered that the facility has very competitive wages.

[5:06:37 PM](#)

DENISE PLANO, Chief Nursing Officer, Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC), Wrangell Medical Center, expressed the opinion that the nursing shortage will continue to grow worse in Alaska without the passage of HB 149. She stated that SEARHC is very reliant on recruiting nurses from out of state, and HB 149 would aid in this process.

[5:08:27 PM](#)

NICOLE WELCH, Chief Human Resource Officer, Foundation Health Partners, stated that nursing requires around the clock care; therefore, the nursing shortage is having a negative impact. She expressed the opinion that passing HB 149 would help reduce the number of nursing vacancies, which would help both nurses and patients.

[5:10:35 PM](#)

CRAIG CALDWELL, representing self, shared that he has been a nurse for 17 years and had experienced delays in receiving his license when he first arrived in Alaska. He expressed the opinion that HB 149 would help solve some of the issues related to the nursing shortage. He opined that there should be more investment in nursing education in Alaska.

[5:12:20 PM](#)

COURTNEY TABER, Nursing Manager, Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium, Juneau Medical Center, expressed the opinion that HB 149 would help reduce the nursing shortage in Alaska. She related her experience when she moved to Alaska and the long wait time to receive a nursing license.

[5:14:25 PM](#)

SHANNON DAVENPORT, representing self, shared that she is an operating and hospice nurse in Anchorage. She expressed opposition to HB 149, explaining that the reason for the nursing shortage is because of nurse "burnout" from events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. She argued that retaining nurses would reduce the nursing shortage.

[5:16:51 PM](#)

DON THIBEDEAU, Social Worker, Denali Center, shared that he has worked at Denali Center for 33 years. He acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic caused many of the staffing issues faced today by medical facilities across the state. He argued that passing HB 149 would help reduce the shortage by bringing more nurses to Alaska.

[5:18:56 PM](#)

MARGE STONEKING, Lobbyist, AARP Alaska, stated that Alaska has the fastest growing senior population in the U.S., and recruiting nurses from outside the state is necessary to address this. She said that NLC would help this process and increase professional development in the state. She expressed the opinion that Alaska is at a disadvantage and passing HB 149 would help reduce this.

[5:21:50 PM](#)

LAURA BONNER, representing self, shared that she is a retired nurse and opposes HB 149. She stated that NLC's website contains information mostly about how to get more states to join, and she expressed concern about the requirements of NLC.

[5:24:13 PM](#)

KIM ROBSON, representing self, stated that she is a nurse in Petersburg. She expressed the opinion that passing HB 149 would encourage nurses to move to Alaska, as the main complaint she hears on travel nurse forums is the length of time to acquire a nursing license in Alaska.

[5:25:43 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER, after ascertaining there was no one else who wished to testify, closed public testimony on HB 149.

CHAIR SUMNER announced that HB 149 was held over.

#### **HB 88-WAREHOUSE WORK QUOTA INFORMATION**

[5:25:54 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the next order of business would be HB 88, "An Act relating to work quotas for employees at warehouse distribution centers; and providing for an effective date."

[5:26:13 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER moved to adopt Amendment 1 to HB 88, labeled 33-LS0516\A.1, Klein, 4/11/23, which read as follows:

Page 3, lines 3 - 4:

Delete all material and insert:

"(1) "employee" means a person who works in a warehouse distribution center and who is subject to a quota;"

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK objected.

CHAIR SUMNER explained that Amendment 1 would narrow the definition of workers who work in a warehouse, because as written the proposed legislation is too broad.

[5:26:42 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK asked how many warehouses in Alaska have 100 or more employees.

[5:27:18 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE GEORGE RAUSCHER, Alaska State Legislature, as prime sponsor, deferred the question to his staff.

[5:27:52 PM](#)

RYAN MCKEE, Staff, Representative George Rauscher, Alaska State Legislature, on behalf of Representative Rauscher, prime sponsor of HB 88, responded that fewer than 15 warehouses have more than 100 employees.

[5:28:19 PM](#)

PATRICK FITZGERALD, Representative, Teamsters 959, providing invited testimony on HB 88, concurred with Mr. McKee.

[5:28:52 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK removed her objection. There being no further objection, Amendment 1 to HB 88 was adopted.

[5:29:00 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK moved to adopt Amendment 2 to HB 88, as amended, labeled, 33-LS0516\A.2, Klein, 4/12/23, which read as follows:

Page 1, line 9:  
Delete "100"  
Insert "50"

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER objected.

[5:29:08 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK explained that Amendment 2 would reduce the number of employees from 100 to 50 in the proposed bill.

[5:30:10 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS expressed satisfaction with the original number.

[5:30:40 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER requested that the bill sponsor speak to the amendment.

REPRESENTATIVE RAUSCHER expressed uncertainty because of his lack of knowledge of the number of warehouses which would be affected.

[5:31:33 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK requested Mr. Fitzgerald's opinion of the amendment.

MR. FITZGERALD stated that Teamsters 959 is in support of lowering the number of warehouse workers, especially after the passage of Amendment 1. He stated that the scope of warehouses this would cover is still being determined.

[5:32:50 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representative Carrick voted in favor of Amendment 2 to HB 88, as amended. Representatives Prax, Saddler, Wright, Fields, and Sumner voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 2 failed by a vote of 1-5.

[5:33:35 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER moved to adopt Amendment 3 to HB 88, as amended, labeled, 33-LS0516\A.3, Klein, 4/14/23, which read as follows:

Page 1, line 9:  
Delete "100"  
Insert "200"

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK objected.

CHAIR SUMNER explained that Amendment 3 would ensure the safety of workers in large warehouse situations, especially in light of future interest which may come to the state.

[5:34:15 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS commented that he is in support of the amendment, as it would ensure the proposed legislation would protect worker safety.

[5:35:24 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked for Representative Rauscher's view of the amendment.

REPRESENTATIVE RAUSCHER answered that he does not support the amendment.

[5:36:10 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 5:36 p.m. to 5:37 p.m.

[5:37:24 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RAUSCHER expressed the opinion that the number of warehouse workers should remain at 100.

[5:37:42 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK commented that she supports the original number because it widens the number of workers who will be protected by the bill.

[5:38:49 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Sumner, Prax, Fields voted in favor of Amendment 3 to HB 88, as amended.

Representatives Saddler, Wright, and Carrick voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 3 failed by a vote of 3-3.

CHAIR SUMNER announced that HB 88, as amended, was held over.

**HB 87-PERM FUND; EMPLOYMENT; ELIGIBILITY**

[5:39:06 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the next order of business would be 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." [Before the committee, adopted as a working document on 4/10/23, was the proposed committee substitute (CS) for HB 87, Version 33-GH1337\S, Nauman, 3/13/23 ("Version S").]

[5:39:19 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT moved to adopt Amendment 1 to HB 87, Version S, labeled GH1337\S.1, Nauman, 3/20/23, which read as follows:

Page 6, line 29, through page 7, line 5:  
Delete all material.

Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

Page 10, lines 20 - 21:  
Delete "AS 43.23.008(f), as amended by sec. 8 of this Act, and AS 43.23.011(d), added by sec. 9 of this Act"  
Insert "and AS 43.23.008(f), as amended by sec. 8 of this Act"

Page 10, line 26:  
Delete "7 - 9"  
Insert "7 and 8"

Page 10, line 29:  
Delete "10 - 12, and 14"  
Insert "9 - 11, and 13"

Page 10, line 31:  
Delete "sec. 15"  
Insert "sec. 14"

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK objected.

[5:39:23 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT explained that Amendment 1 would remove language which would provide an extension to the permanent fund dividend (PFD) filing deadline for dependents of Alaskans who failed to meet the deadline for medical emergencies. He stated that the Department of Revenue had conveyed it would be difficult to determine the cost of this provision, and the existing administrative code already addresses these concerns. He stated that removing the language retains the original intent of the legislation while eliminating the potential fiscal burden on the department.

[5:40:12 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER commented that the original bill language contains conflicting information on whether a person would have the ability to apply for the PFD on their own.

[5:41:32 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK removed her objection. There being no further objection, Amendment 1 was adopted.

[5:41:41 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER moved to adopt Amendment 2 to HB 87, Version S, as amended, labeled GH1337\S.2, Nauman, 4/6/23, which read as follows:

Page 5, line 30:

Delete "(16), or (17)"

Insert "or (16) - (18) [(16), OR (17)]"

Page 6, following line 6:

Insert a new paragraph to read:

"(17) serving as a pilot, flight engineer, or flight attendant for a United States airline certified as an air carrier by the Federal Aviation Administration;"

Page 6, line 7:

Delete "(17)"

Insert "(18) [(17)]"

Page 6, line 11:  
Delete "(4) - (16)"  
Insert "(4) - (17) [(4) - (16)]"

Page 6, line 14:  
Delete "(4) - (16)"  
Insert "(4) - (17) [(4) - (16)]"

Page 6, line 17:  
Delete "(1) - (16)"  
Insert "(1) - (17) [(1) - (16)]"

Page 6, line 18:  
Delete "(4) - (16)"  
Insert "(4) - (17) [(4) - (16)]"

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK objected.

[5:41:49 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER explained that Amendment 2 would ensure flight crews working for airlines based in the U.S. and living in Alaska would be able to file and receive the PFD.

[5:42:39 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK asked if similar provisions already exist in the proposed legislation.

[5:43:37 PM](#)

COREY BIGELOW, Operations Manager, Permanent Fund Dividend Division, Department of Revenue, answered that HB 87 contains language which is specific to students.

[5:44:51 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK asked whether there are other professions that might benefit from the language of the amendment.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER answered that there are currently 16 or 17 groups which have allowable absences for filing the PFD.

[5:46:33 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS commented that previous legislation was passed to allow merchant mariners to be out of state for more

than 180 days and still receive a PFD, and this exception should apply to flight crews.

[5:47:23 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK removed her objection.

[5:47:29 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX objected. He asked whether there is another bill which addresses this issue.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER answered that there is similar legislation pending, but it does not include flight crews.

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX expressed the opinion that the amendment is too narrow.

[5:50:38 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Saddler, Carrick, Fields, Wright, and Sumner voted in favor of Amendment 2 to HB 87, Version S, as amended. Representative Prax voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 2 was adopted by a vote of 5-1.

[5:51:20 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS moved to adopt Amendment 3 to HB 87, Version S, as amended, labeled GH1337\S.3, Nauman, 4/10/23, which read as follows:

Page 1, line 4, following "**Revenue;**":

Insert "**establishing a tax on an individual's permanent fund dividend;**"

Page 9, line 25, following "**chapter**":

Insert "**;**  
**(13) adopt regulations under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) to administer the dividend tax established under AS 43.23.280"**

Page 10, following line 16:

Insert a new bill section to read:

"\* **Sec. 13.** AS 43.23 is amended by adding a new section to read:

**Article 6A. Dividend Tax.**

**Sec. 43.23.280. Dividend tax.** (a) A tax equal to the amount of the permanent fund dividend is imposed each year on each individual paid a permanent fund dividend that year. For purposes of this subsection, a permanent fund dividend is paid to an individual even if the dividend is contributed or donated under AS 43.23.130 or 43.23.230 or taken under AS 43.23.140 - 43.23.190.

(b) An individual shall remit the tax due under this chapter by December 31 of each year.

(c) An individual not filing a federal tax return jointly with another individual is exempt from the tax under this section if the individual's federal adjusted gross income for the taxable year is less than \$75,000. Two individuals filing federal tax returns jointly are exempt from the tax under this section if the individuals' federal adjusted gross income for the taxable year is less than \$125,000."

Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

Page 10, line 29:

Delete "14"

Insert "15"

Page 10, line 31:

Delete "sec. 15"

Insert "sec. 16"

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER objected.

[5:51:24 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS explained that in an effort to redistribute wealth from the fund to working class families, Amendment 3 would exempt lower income families from being taxed on their PFDs. He added that the amendment would not affect the PFDs received by children of higher income families.

[5:52:30 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER commented that there is a memorandum from Legislative Legal Services which relays the belief that the amendment would not be constitutional under the single-subject rule.

[5:52:48 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS [moved to] withdraw Amendment 3. There being no objection, Amendment 3 was withdrawn.

[5:53:02 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER moved to adopt Amendment 4 to HB 87, Version S, as amended, labeled GH1337\S.5, Nauman, 4/10/23, which read as follows:

Page 1, line 4, following "**Revenue;**":

Insert "**relating to depositing permanent fund dividends into investment accounts;**"

Page 9, following line 25:

Insert a new bill section to read:

"\* **Sec. 12.** AS 43.23 is amended by adding a new section to read:

**Sec. 43.23.058. Deposits from dividends.** (a) An applicant for a permanent fund dividend who is eligible under this chapter to receive a permanent fund dividend, or the applicant's authorized representative, may direct that all or part of the amount of the dividend payment be deposited in an investment account identified by the applicant.

(b) The department shall design the permanent fund dividend application form to allow an applicant, or the applicant's authorized representative, to direct the department to make a deposit under this section, and to provide the information that the department determines is necessary to implement this section.

(c) The department may not use money from the dividend fund for administrative costs incurred in implementing this section."

Reorder the following bill sections accordingly.

Page 10, line 29:

Delete "10 - 12, and 14"

Insert "10, 11, 13, and 15"

Page 10, line 31:

Delete "sec. 15"

Insert "sec. 16"

There being no objection, Amendment 4 was adopted.

[5:53:13 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT moved to report CSHB 87, Version 33-GH1337\S, Nauman, 3/13/23, as amended, out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying zero fiscal note. There being no objection, CSHB 87(L&C) was reported out of the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee.

**HB 60-RUNAWAYS; DFCS/DOH: DUTIES/LICENSING/INFO**

[5:53:45 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the next order of business would be HB 60, "An Act relating to the licensing of runaway shelters; relating to advisors to the board of trustees of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority; relating to the sharing of confidential health information between the Department of Health and the Department of Family and Community Services; relating to the duties of the Department of Health and the Department of Family and Community Services; and providing for an effective date." [Before the committee, adopted as a working document on 3/23/23, was the proposed committee substitute (CS) for HB 60, Version 33-GH1343\S, Bergerud, 3/21/23 ("Version S").]

[5:53:49 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 5:53 p.m. to 5:55 p.m.

[5:55:24 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER opened public testimony on HB 60. After ascertaining there was no one who wished to testify, he closed public testimony.

[5:55:43 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT moved to report CSHB 60, Version 33-GH1343\S, Bergerud, 3/21/23 out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying zero fiscal note. There being no objection, CSHB 60(HSS) was reported out of the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee.

**HB 21-SCHOOL/UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSUR**

[5:56:09 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the next order of business would be HB 21, "An Act relating to group insurance coverage and self-insurance coverage for school district employees, employees of the University of Alaska, and employees of other governmental units in the state; and providing for an effective date."

[5:56:23 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER opened public testimony on HB 21. After ascertaining there was no one who wished to testify, he closed public testimony.

[5:56:40 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that HB 21 was held over.

**HB 97-SELF-STORAGE UNITS: LIENS; SALES**

[5:56:48 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the final order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 97, "An Act relating to self-storage facilities for personal property, including vehicles and watercraft; distinguishing self-storage facility liens from another type of storage lien; and excluding self-storage liens from the treatment of certain unclaimed property."

[5:56:56 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER opened public testimony on HB 97.

[5:57:11 PM](#)

WILLIAM BREWER, Fairbanks Storage, provided public testimony in support of HB 97. He stated that Alaska is the only state without storage lien laws. He explained that most storage facilities in Alaska are owned by Alaskans, and many operators are acting in accordance with provisions which would be codified by HB 97. He expressed the opinion that passing HB 97 would protect consumers and operators.

[5:59:03 PM](#)

DANIEL BRYANT, Legal and Legislative Counsel, Self Storage Association, stated that the Self Storage Association supports HB 97.

[5:59:37 PM](#)

WENDIE MACNAUGHTON, Co-owner, Lulu Storage, stated that she supports HB 97, as there are currently no legal guidelines which would protect renters or storage unit operators. She expressed the opinion that HB 97 would enact protections for both parties.

[6:00:58 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX asked whether Mr. Byrant had ever dealt with lien foreclosures involving vehicles.

MR. BRYANT expressed the opinion that the bill may need more specific language regarding vehicles.

[6:02:32 PM](#)

NATHANIEL DYE, Juneau Self Storage, expressed satisfaction that there is the possibility of a storage lien law in Alaska. He explained that, while daunting, dealing with vehicle foreclosures related to storage units is possible, and banks would receive proper notification.

[6:03:23 PM](#)

SHARON BEAMAN, Manager, North Pole Self Storage, stated that her facility has a large parking lot to store vehicles, and there are existing regulations set forth by the Division of Motor Vehicles. She said that North Pole Self Storage supports the passage of HB 97.

[6:04:47 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER, after ascertaining that there was no one else who wished to testify, close public testimony on HB 97.

[HB 97 was held over.]

[6:04:58 PM](#)

The committee took a brief at-ease.

[6:05:36 PM](#)

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the committee, the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.