

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE STANDING COMMITTEE

February 14, 2024

3:04 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Stanley Wright

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HOUSE BILL NO. 147

"An Act relating to teacher certificates for retired teachers."

- MOVED HB 147 OUT OF COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 192

"An Act relating to curbside pickup of alcoholic beverages sold by a package store; relating to consumer delivery licenses; and providing for an effective date."

- HEARD & HELD

HOUSE BILL NO. 253

"An Act relating to refrigerants designated as acceptable for use under federal law."

- MOVED HB 253 OUT OF COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 251

"An Act exempting certain foods and drinks prepared in a person's uninspected home kitchen from state labeling, licensing, packaging, permitting, and inspection requirements; and permitting a person to acquire meat from a producer by way of an ownership share in an animal if certain conditions are met."

- SCHEDULED BUT NOT HEARD

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HB 147

SHORT TITLE: RETIRED TEACHER CERTIFICATE

SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) DIBERT

03/29/23	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
03/29/23	(H)	L&C, EDC
04/10/23	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
04/10/23	(H)	<Bill Hearing Canceled>
01/26/24	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
01/26/24	(H)	-- MEETING CANCELED --
02/02/24	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
02/02/24	(H)	Heard & Held
02/02/24	(H)	MINUTE(L&C)
02/12/24	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
02/12/24	(H)	<Bill Hearing Rescheduled to 02/14/24>
02/14/24	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

BILL: HB 192

SHORT TITLE: DELIVERY/PICK UP OF ALCOHOL; LICENSING

SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) SUMNER

05/03/23	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
05/03/23	(H)	L&C, FIN
01/22/24	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
01/22/24	(H)	Heard & Held
01/22/24	(H)	MINUTE(L&C)
02/02/24	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
02/02/24	(H)	Heard & Held
02/02/24	(H)	MINUTE(L&C)
02/14/24	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

BILL: HB 253

SHORT TITLE: FEDERALLY DESIGNATED REFRIGERANTS

SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) WRIGHT

01/16/24	(H)	PREFILE RELEASED 1/12/24
01/16/24	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/16/24	(H)	L&C
02/14/24	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

WITNESS REGISTER

KARI NORE, Director of External Affairs
Alaska Chamber

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 192.

FORREST WOLFE, Staff
Representative Stanley Wright
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Provided a re-cap on HB 253 on behalf of Representative Wright, prime sponsor.

JOSIPHIAH MASON, Staff
Representative Stanley Wright
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Read the sponsor statement for HB 253 on behalf of Representative Wright, prime sponsor.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[3:18:08 PM](#)

CHAIR JESSE SUMNER called the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. Representatives Prax, Ruffridge, Saddler, and Sumner were present at the call to order. Representatives Carrick and Fields arrived as the meeting was in progress.

HB 147-RETIRED TEACHER CERTIFICATE

[3:18:31 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the first order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 147, "An Act relating to teacher certificates for retired teachers."

[3:18:42 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER opened public testimony on HB 147. After ascertaining there was no one who wished to testify, he closed public testimony.

[3:19:10 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE moved to report HB 147 out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, HB 147 was reported out of the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee.

HB 192-DELIVERY/PICK UP OF ALCOHOL; LICENSING

[3:19:32 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the next order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 192, "An Act relating to curbside pickup of alcoholic beverages sold by a package store; relating to consumer delivery licenses; and providing for an effective date."

[3:19:56 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER opened public testimony on HB 192.

[3:20:15 PM](#)

KARI NORE, Director of External Affairs, Alaska Chamber, testified in support of HB 192. She provided a brief history of the Alaska Chamber and said the proposed legislation would set up framework for safe delivery and curbside pickup of alcohol in Alaska. She noted this framework was instigated during the COVID-19 pandemic, and continuing the ability for delivery and pickup will enhance business and free enterprise.

[3:21:48 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER, after ascertaining there was no one else who wished to testify, closed public testimony on HB 192.

CHAIR SUMNER gave a deadline for amendments.

[3:21:55 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced HB 192 was held over.

HB 253-FEDERALLY DESIGNATED REFRIGERANTS

[3:22:09 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the final order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 253, "An Act relating to refrigerants designated as acceptable for use under federal law."

[3:22:27 PM](#)

FORREST WOLFE, Staff, Representative Stanley Wright, Alaska State Legislature, provided a re-cap on HB 253 on behalf of Representative Wright, prime sponsor. The bill would add a section to Alaska statute to allow for but not mandate the transition from hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). Under HB 253, building codes in Alaska could not stop the use of an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved HFC alternative if the necessary equipment were installed properly and in compliance with safety standards. He indicated the bill would support the trend away from HFC use the construction industry.

[3:23:50 PM](#)

JOSIPHIAH MASON, Staff, Representative Stanley Wright, Alaska State Legislature, on behalf of Representative Wright, prime sponsor, provided the sponsor statement for HB 253 [included in committee packet], which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

Alaska is one of the states where legislation is needed to prepare for the transition away from hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). HFCs are chemicals that are most commonly found in industrial and residential air conditioning systems in the form of refrigerant.

According to the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, "The most abundant HFC is 3,790 times more damaging to the climate than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period" (CCA) House Bill 253 aims to give the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Industry the framework it needs to begin the transitioning process in the future in a safe and efficient manner, allowing for them to stay as competitive as possible while also lowering the global warming potential by approximately 75% through switching to HFC alternatives.

To move forward with the goal of switching out HFCs, the legislature must ensure that the building codes in Alaska cannot stop the use of a HFC alternative as long as the equipment needed to use it is installed properly and complies with the necessary safety standards. Supporting the switch to HFC alternative refrigerants will nationally contribute to the projected creation of around 33,000 jobs as well as maintaining 138,400 other existing jobs from now to 2027.

This will embolden Alaska's economy and ensure that we do all we can to support the need for green energy techniques and industries in the future. In combination with other states, the federal transition to HFC alternatives is projected to decrease America's greenhouse gas emissions by a total of 2.4 billion metric tons of Carbon Dioxide for the next 15 years. The importance of allowing our industrial leaders to have a functional environment in which to do business, as well as working on our levels of greenhouse gas emissions are two very important, related subjects and HB 253s passage will be a fantastic approach to helping both.

[3:25:53 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK asked how the bill differs from a previous iteration of this legislation.

MR. WOLFE answered that the outcome is the same, some words were changed. To a follow-up question, he indicated that an amendment by the Senate had resulted in the governor's veto of the prior version of this legislation, and he expressed his hope that HB 253 would pass both bodies this year without being amended.

[3:27:43 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER opened pub testimony on HB 253. After ascertaining there was no one who wished to testify, he closed public testimony.

[3:28:01 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE moved to report HB 253 out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, HB 253 was reported out of the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee.

[3:28:25 PM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.