

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

February 26, 2024

3:17 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Representative Dan Saddler

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

HOUSE BILL NO. 385

"An Act relating to occupational licensing fees."

- HEARD & HELD

HOUSE BILL NO. 237

"An Act relating to temporary permits for nurses with lapsed licenses."

- MOVED HB 237 OUT OF COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 290

"An Act relating to the issuance of certificates of fitness for plumbers and electricians; relating to fees for certificates of fitness for plumbers and electricians; and providing for an effective date."

- HEARD & HELD

HOUSE BILL NO. 200

"An Act relating to pull-tabs; relating to persons prohibited from involvement in gaming; and relating to the duties of the Department of Revenue."

- HEARD & HELD

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: HB 385

SHORT TITLE: OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING FEES

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) EASTMAN

02/20/24 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
02/20/24 (H) L&C  
02/26/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

BILL: HB 237

SHORT TITLE: TEMPORARY PERMIT FOR LAPSED NURSE LICENSE

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) PRAX

01/16/24 (H) PREFILE RELEASED 1/8/24  
01/16/24 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
01/16/24 (H) L&C  
02/02/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124  
02/02/24 (H) <Bill Hearing Rescheduled to 02/05/24>  
02/05/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124  
02/05/24 (H) Heard & Held  
02/05/24 (H) MINUTE(L&C)  
02/19/24 (H) L&C AT 4:15 PM BARNES 124  
02/19/24 (H) -- MEETING CANCELED --  
02/26/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

BILL: HB 290

SHORT TITLE: CERT. OF FITNESS: PLUMBERS/ELECTRICIANS

SPONSOR(S): RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

01/24/24 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
01/24/24 (H) L&C, FIN  
02/19/24 (H) L&C AT 4:15 PM BARNES 124  
02/19/24 (H) -- MEETING CANCELED --  
02/21/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124  
02/21/24 (H) -- MEETING CANCELED --  
02/26/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

BILL: HB 200

SHORT TITLE: GAMING; ELECTRONIC PULL-TABS

SPONSOR(S): RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

05/10/23 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
05/10/23 (H) L&C, FIN  
02/09/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124  
02/09/24 (H) -- MEETING CANCELED --  
02/12/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124  
02/12/24 (H) Heard & Held

02/12/24 (H) MINUTE (L&C)  
02/16/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124  
02/16/24 (H) -- MEETING CANCELED --  
02/26/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

**WITNESS REGISTER**

REPRESENTATIVE DAVID EASTMAN  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** As prime sponsor, presented HB 385.

CATHY MUNOZ, Commissioner Designee  
Office of the Commissioner  
Department of Labor & Workforce Development  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave introductory remarks on HB 290 on behalf of the House Rules Standing Committee, sponsor by request of the governor.

SCOTT DAMEROW, Chief  
Mechanical Inspection  
Division of Labor Standards and Safety  
Department of Labor & Workforce Development  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Presented a PowerPoint, entitled "HB 290 - Certificate of Fitness: Plumbers/Electricians" during the hearing on HB 290.

SANDY POWERS, Owner  
Big Valley Bingo  
Willow, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave invited testimony during the hearing on the proposed CS for HB 200, Version S.

DAVID LAMBERT, representing self  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave invited testimony during the hearing on the proposed CS for HB 200, Version S.

JOSHUA LEWIS  
representing self  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave invited testimony during the hearing on the proposed CS for HB 200, Version S.

JERRY LEWIS, Operator

Northern Lights Bingo  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave invited testimony during the hearing on the proposed CS for HB 200, Version S.

MIKE MINERS, representing self  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified during the hearing on HB 200.

DAVID SANDEN  
Hidden Treasures Multi Beneficiary Permit  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in opposition to HB 200.

JOHN POWERS  
Big Valley Bingo  
Willow, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified during the hearing on HB 200.

JACK HEESCH, President  
Anchorage Youth & Recreation  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified during the hearing on HB 200.

DON WINCHESTER, Board Vice President  
Alliance for American Legion Baseball  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in opposition to HB 200.

NANCY DECHERNEY, representing self  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified during the hearing on HB 200.

MICHAEL TICE, President  
Peninsula Oilers Baseball Club  
Kenai, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of HB 200.

PAULETTE JOY, President  
AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of HB 200.

SHARI FULTON, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of HB 200.

MICHELLE SAS, representing self  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of HB 200.

CHARLES BORING, representing self  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified during the hearing on HB 200.

CHRISTA FOLI, Department Commander  
AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of HB 200.

DIANA TICE, Alternative Member in Charge  
Old Town Bingo  
Kenai, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of HB 200.

#### **ACTION NARRATIVE**

[3:17:26 PM](#)

**CHAIR JESSE SUMNER** called the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:17 p.m. Representatives Prax, Ruffridge, Wright, Carrick and Sumner were present at the call to order. Representative Fields arrived as the meeting was in progress.

#### **HB 385-OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING FEES**

[Contains discussion of HB 314.]

[3:17:57 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the first order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 385, "An Act relating to occupational licensing fees."

[3:18:15 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE DAVID EASTMAN, Alaska State Legislature, as prime sponsor, presented HB 385. He referred to a PowerPoint presentation, entitled "HB 385 Occupational License Fees" [hard copy included in the committee packet], and began on slide 2, "The Problem," which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

- High Volatility of License Fees as a Barrier to Entry
- Excessive License Fees are a Detriment to Recruitment and Retention for the affected licensed career field
- Military Spouses Also Impacted

[3:21:01 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE EASTMAN continued to slide 3, "Solutions HB 385," which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

PROS

- Reduction of Excessive Costs For Some
- Volatility of License Fees Reduced

CONS

- No Fees For Those Who Do Not Practice  
Others Bear This Additional Burden  
Through Increased Fees
- Personalized/Paper License Applications
- Additional Staff Time To Process
- Additional Costs Born By Department

REPRESENTATIVE EASTMAN contrasted HB 385 with HB 314 on slide 4, "Solutions HB 314," which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

PROS

- Reduction of Excessive Costs Due To Investigations
- More Certain Fee Environment

CONS

- Costs of Investigations Shifted To The Department
- Potential Moral Hazard

[3:25:14 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK observed that the cap would be 20 percent - or one-fifth - of total gross income. She asked how the bill sponsor arrived at that number.

REPRESENTATIVE EASTMAN opined that anything higher than 20 percent would be obviously excessive and would discourage licensees from engaging in the occupation.

[3:25:59 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE asked whether the 20 percent cap would be a voluntary submission of gross income, such as a tax return. For example, if a licensee earned \$100,00 per year, he asked whether the license fee would be assessed at \$20,000.

REPRESENTATIVE EASTMAN clarified that [the 20 percent would be calculated from] only the portion of income that relates to the license, which could not be assessed from a simple tax return. He suggested that the department could create a form for licensees to determine the dollar amount for their license-generated income. He pointed out that this option would only be exercised if the existing fee was in excess of that amount.

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE asked which license types would be most affected by the bill outside of midwives.

REPRESENTATIVE EASTMAN said the target is career fields with excessive license [fees] and small applicant pools.

[3:29:22 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that HB 385 would be held over.

**HB 237-TEMPORARY PERMIT FOR LAPSED NURSE LICENSE**

[3:29:34 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the next order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 237, "An Act relating to temporary permits for nurses with lapsed licenses."

[3:29:47 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER opened public testimony on HB 237. After ascertaining that no one wished to testify, he closed public testimony.

[3:30:19 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE moved to report HB 237 out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, HB 237 was reported from the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee.

[3:30:41 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 3:30 p.m. to 3:33 p.m.

**HB 290-CERT. OF FITNESS: PLUMBERS/ELECTRICIANS**

[3:33:10 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the next order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 290, "An Act relating to the issuance of certificates of fitness for plumbers and electricians; relating to fees for certificates of fitness for plumbers and electricians; and providing for an effective date."

[3:33:36 PM](#)

CATHY MUNOZ, Commissioner Designee, Office of the Commissioner, Department of Labor & Workforce Development, gave a summary of HB 290 on behalf of the House Rules Standing Committee, sponsor by request of the governor. She said the proposed legislation would change the trainees' certificate of fitness (COF) for plumbers and electricians from two years to six years. Currently, if a trainee fails to renew the COF, the hours worked during that lapse cannot be counted towards his/her journeyman certification. The legislation would also increase the fee for the journeyman level certificate from \$200 to \$300. She said the elimination of the requirement for trainees to apply for and pay for the renewals during the training period would expedite apprenticeship procedure overall. Further, it would avoid the difficult situation of rejecting training hours when an individual is ready to sit for the journeyman test.

[3:35:20 PM](#)

SCOTT DAMEROW, Chief, Mechanical Inspection, Division of Labor Standards and Safety, Department of Labor & Workforce Development (DLWD), presented a PowerPoint, entitled "HB 290 - Certificate of Fitness: Plumbers/Electricians." He began on slide 2, "Proposal," which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

This legislation would:

- Change trainee certificate of fitness durations from two- to six-years
  - No change to the \$200 fee for this license
- Increase the fees for journey-level licenses from \$200 biennially to \$300 biennially

[3:36:33 PM](#)

MR. DAMEROW moved to slide 3, "Why the Change," which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

Trainee certificate of fitness holders (enrolled in the federal apprenticeship program) often lapse their license during their apprenticeship. This results in:

- Time worked that cannot be counted towards the journeyman license
- Administrative delays in processing licenses
- Delays in becoming a journeyman

MR. DAMEROW shared the mechanical inspection active licenses on slide 4 and the amounts of each that were issued. Slide 5 showed new licenses issued by type and year from 2019-2023. Slides 6-8 showed plumbing, electrical, and other licenses issued from 2019-2023. He highlighted the overall decline in plumbing and electrical journeyman licenses despite a slight uptick in the number of trainees and noted the "alarming" decline in other licenses issued by Mechanical Inspection as well.

[3:38:36 PM](#)

MR. DAMEROW moved to slide 9, "Trainee Requirements," which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

Requirements for a journeyman plumber or electrician license are similar:

- Completion of 8,000 legally-obtained on-the-job hours
  - May include 1,000 classroom hours
  - Hours are submitted on one or more 'Experience Verification Forms'
- Passing score of 70% or better on the exam
- Payment of \$200 fee

MR. DAMEROW continued to slide 10, "Trainee Barriers," which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

Barriers that can make it difficult to obtain a journeyman license:

- Employers do not complete the 'Experience Verification Form' correctly

- Employers are not available to complete the 'Experience Verification Form'
- Some of the hours worked were not legally-obtained
  - Maintenance hours may not be counted
  - Trainee certificate of fitness was lapsed when the hours were worked

MR. DAMEROW advanced to slide 11, "Lapsed Trainee Card Hours," which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

In the period from 2019-2023:

- Electrical trainee license days lapsed: 21,142 (57.9 years)
  - Average number of licensees affected per year: 51.6
  - Average days lapsed for each affected licensee: 81.9
- Plumbing trainee license days lapsed: 15,513 (42.5)
  - Average number of licensee affected per year: 28.8
  - Average days lapsed for each affected licensee (107.7)

[3:40:20 PM](#)

MR. DAMEROW moved to slide 12, "Trainee Card Renewal Requirements," which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

Renewal of a two-year trainee certificate of fitness:

- Pay \$200 renewal fee

MR. DAMEROW proceeded to slide 13, "Impact," which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

The proposed change to duration and fees would:

- Lower the cost of apprenticeship programs for plumbers and electricians
- Reduce administrative requirement to renew a trainee certificate of fitness in the middle of an apprenticeship
- Result in much less time lost due to lapsed licenses

Results:

- Incentivize more workers to enter the trade apprenticeship programs
- Shift the financial burden to the higher-paid journey-level workers
- Allow apprentices to "journey out" faster by removing lapsed periods

[3:41:23 PM](#)

MR. DAMEROW moved to slide 14, "Proposed Fee Changes," which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

Fee change results:

- \$164.5 average increase in annual fees based on 2019-2023 data
- \$58.75 average annual savings for trainees
- Trainee licenses will cost \$200 for the entire apprenticeship rather than the current \$400

[3:41:58 PM](#)

MR. DAMEROW concluded on slide 15, "Reasoning for Proposed Fee Increase," which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

The primary purpose of the proposed fee increase is to offset the proposed lack of renewals for trainee licenses

This number was selected to compensate for the lack of fee increases since 2006

\$200-\$300 fee change matches the Consumer Price Index from 2006-2023

Mechanical Inspection is self-funded from program receipts

[3:42:31 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX surmised that a person with a trainee license might not get enough work. He asked whether there are enough projects available.

MR. DAMEROW said that scenario is rare because there are a lot more projects than people. The problem, he said, is when trainees have an expired two-year card and at the end of the four years, the hours worked during the lapsed period cannot be

counted. In other words, when trainees forget the administrative requirement, they are punished for that.

3:44:03 PM

REPRESENTATIVE CARRICK asked whether the decreasing number of electricians is due the training requirements or outmigration. In addition, she asked Mr. Damrow to quantify that decrease "by the numbers."

MR. DAMEROW acknowledged that the reduction is caused by many factors that are probably beyond the department's control. He reviewed the data on slide 5 and reiterated that both licensed plumbers and electricians are suffering from the same downward trend, which could result in a need to outsource that work.

3:46:37 PM

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE returned to slide 3 and questioned the need for additional revenue. He posited that the department's effort for license renewals would go down if the trainees' licenses was extended to six years.

MR. DAMEROW said fees have not been increased in the past 17 years. He acknowledged that the trainee extension would save the department a slight amount in non-renewals; however, as a self-funded agency, inflation has impacted everything from the cost of travel, vehicles, and gas.

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE asked what the department is shy of in terms of funding to accomplish the task at hand, and whether the fee increase would cover that shortfall.

MR. DAMEROW said the department lacks the funding for updated databases and computer systems. He said the department is spending on vital elements; however, infrastructure improvements are needed to improve the safety of field officers and the speed of delivery at the licensing desk.

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE stated that those projects seem best suited for a capital project. He asked whether ongoing funded is needed in other areas.

MR. DAMEROW answered personnel costs. He said every self-funded cost is increasing exorbitantly without any revenue gains. He added that the bill would stabilize the department in today's market without making up for lost revenue.

[3:50:38 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that HB 290 would be held over.

**HB 200-GAMING; ELECTRONIC PULL-TABS**

[3:51:11 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the next order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 200, "An Act relating to pull-tabs; relating to persons prohibited from involvement in gaming; and relating to the duties of the Department of Revenue." [Before the committee, adopted as the working document on 2/12/24, was the proposed committee substitute (CS) for HB 200, Version 33-GH1054\S, Wallace, 2/8/24, ("Version S").]

CHAIR SUMNER opened invited testimony.

[3:51:44 PM](#)

SANDY POWERS, Owner, Big Valley Bingo, gave invited testimony on Version S. She opined that there could be a version of electronic pull-tabs ("E-Tabs") that could be workable in Alaska. She said that Arrow International, the company behind the proposed legislation, seems to be creating a monopoly in Alaska because they bought the largest distributor, Whaler Casino Supply, which is one of only four distributors in the state. She explained that the E-Tab manufacturers would get somewhere between 31 and 35 percent of the adjusted gross income while charities would receive 30 percent. In contrast, she noted that the cost of electronic bingo games in Alaska is between 2 and 10 percent. She cited AS 05.15.128, which she understood to mean that the game average payout cannot exceed 85 percent; however, she said most E-Tab companies want 90-92 percent. She questioned why the amount of money going to the charities wouldn't increase if the volume of play increased. Lastly, she expressed concern about the indeterminate fiscal note, as the true cost to Alaska charities and businesses is unclear. She said she would like to see the bill written for the benefit of Alaska charities.

[3:59:29 PM](#)

DAVID LAMBERT, representing self, gave invited testimony on Version S. He informed the committee that he is a licensed charitable gaming operator who has been involved in charitable

gaming for 30 years to protect the interest of nonprofits. He said Alaska has a unique charitable gaming system that needs to be protected. He advocated for the switch the E-Tabs because the cost of paper is "out of control." He expressed his opposition to AS.05.15.180(a), which would grant the department unrestricted authority in the future. He said the bill was written by Arrow International for the company to create a monopoly. He said the bill would ban other manufacturers and put limitations on them that would not be good for the industry. He explained that Arrow International owns most of the paper pull-tab manufacturers and would take 50 percent of the profit. He opined that HB 200 should be written by Alaskans, not by the Department of Revenue (DOR). He acknowledged that pull-tabs need to be regulated; however, non-profit protections need to be prioritized.

4:07:29 PM

JOSHUA LEWIS, representing self, gave invited testimony on Version S. He informed the committee that he is a charitable gaming operator in Alaska and shared his experience working in the field. He said the Alaska charitable gaming industry is the poster child for charitable gaming nationally. He said provisions for nonprofits to earn charitable gaming revenue exists in several distinct ways, which is not offered in other states. He said the introduction of E-Tab machines is effectively the introduction of slot machines into the Alaska market, and E-Tab manufacturers would take somewhere between 35-50 percent of the charities' profit. Further, he reported that E-Tab machines provide 5-15 percent profit [for charities], while paper pull-tabs provide 20-23 percent profit. He reported that currently, a \$5 paper pull-tab purchase results in \$1 profit to the charity, whereas E-Tabs require a four-fold increase in volume to create an equivalent financial return. He said early all participants in Alaska charitable gaming would experience a significant decrease in profit if E-Tabs were introduced, adding that only E-Tab manufacturers would see an increase in revenue. He opined that HB 200 is not a good option for the state of Alaska.

4:11:03 PM

JERRY LEWIS, Operator, Northern Lights Bingo, gave invited testimony on Version S. He shared experience in the industry and reiterated that Alaska has the gold standard for charitable gaming. He said the numbers spouted by E-Tab projections are hypotheticals based on states that are not similar to Alaska,

and asked why the state would risk charities' income on hypotheticals. He estimated that if manufacturers would charge between 40-50 percent, revenue would need to double or triple for charities to break even. He noted the social ills that would come from the expansion of gaming. He agreed that E-Tabs are coming to Alaska; however, the bill as written, is not the answer for Alaska. He urged a "no" vote.

[4:13:20 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER opened public testimony on HB 200.

[4:13:42 PM](#)

MIKE MINERS, representing self, testified during the hearing on HB 200. He said the most important part of charitable gaming is the charitable organization. He shared personal anecdotes and said if vendors are to be trusted to use E-Tabs, someone must be accountable to the money. He said pull-tab money must be "made in one year and spent the next" because it is made for charities to spend the money.

[4:18:27 PM](#)

DAVID SANDEN, Hidden Treasures Multi Beneficiary Permit, testified in opposition to HB 200. He said the bill as written does not propose a cap on what E-Tab manufacturers would be able to charge, and without a cap, most if not all of the net gains would be funneled out of state. In addition, it is unclear whether the E-Tab software would allow permit holders to impose a local sales tax on cash and the exchange of playbacks for additional pull tabs. He argued that the lion's share of the realized profits from an increase in net pull-tab receipts would leave the state and only marginally benefit Alaska's charitable organizations. Furthermore, many organizations would be unable to run E-Tabs at all. He recommended including language to limit the amount of ideal net that may be charged for the use of E-Tab devices to no more than 15 percent. He voiced his opposition to the proposed legislation as written.

[4:22:40 PM](#)

JOHN POWERS, Big Valley Bingo, testified during the hearing on HB 200 and said he concurred with past testimony. He urged the committee to speak with Deb McDaniel from North Dakota who is a knowledgeable resource on charitable gaming. He said the bill should be crafted by Alaskans for Alaska charities.

[4:24:52 PM](#)

JACK HEESCH, President, Anchorage Youth & Recreation, testified during the hearing on HB 200. He reminded the committee that there are smaller charitable organizations that help improve lives in Alaska.

[4:28:18 PM](#)

The committee took a brief at-ease at 4:28 p.m.

[4:28:46 PM](#)

DON WINCHESTER, Board Vice President, Alliance for American Legion Baseball, testified in opposition to HB 200. He shared that his organization receives \$30,000 annually from pull-tabs for gap funding. He opined that the bill is loosely written and said he would not want to gamble on the idea that increased volume would result in more money [to the nonprofits].

[4:31:26 PM](#)

NANCY DECHERNEY, representing self, testified during the hearing on HB 200. She said [E-Tabs] is the future, so a solution should be found that benefits Alaska and the non-profits. She said charitable gaming is an important way to have augmented funding. She asked members to do what they can so that charitable groups can do their work.

[4:32:38 PM](#)

MICHAEL TICE, President, Peninsula Oilers Baseball Club, testified in support of HB 200. He likened the E-Tab proposal to the electronic modernization of bingo. He opined that it would increase [Peninsula Oilers Baseball Club's] revenue.

[4:33:47 PM](#)

PAULETTE JOY, President, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, testified in support of HB 200. She emphasized the need to help veterans, their families, and Alaska's active military.

[4:35:16 PM](#)

SHARI FULTON, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, testified in support of HB 200. She said revenue needs to be provided for Alaska's

military. She pointed out that people are not responding to traditional gatherings, such as bake sales; however, they do play pull-tabs.

[4:36:21 PM](#)

MICHELLE SAS, representing self, informed the committee that she is a member of AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary. She shared her understanding that the bill would only add to the ability to increase the available earnings for charities, not affect paper pull-tabs. She said AMVETS relies on the money from pull-tabs and looks forward to the potential increase in revenue that E-Tabs would bring.

[4:37:33 PM](#)

CHARLES BORING, representing self, testified during the hearing on HB 200. He said electronic gaming operators are looking hard at HB 200 because it affects their operations. He said he supports electronic gaming, but not HB 200 as written. He said he would be glad to be involved in a re-write of the bill. Nonetheless, he maintained that electronic gaming needs to be in Alaska.

[4:40:14 PM](#)

CHRISTA FOLI, Department Commander, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, testified in support of HB 200. She said military clubs rely on money from pull-tabs. She shared her understanding that paper pull-tabs would not be affected, noting that electronic bingo didn't replace paper bingo. She said she sees electronic gaming as a benefit to Alaska.

[4:42:09 PM](#)

DIANA TICE, Alternative Member in Charge, Old Town Bingo, testified in support of HB 200. She said E-Tabs would help grow their customer base and increase customer engagement.

[4:43:24 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER closed public testimony on HB 200. He announced that the bill would be held over.

[4:43:45 PM](#)

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the committee, the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.