

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE RESOURCES STANDING COMMITTEE**

March 11, 2024

1:36 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Tom McKay, Chair
Representative George Rauscher, Vice Chair
Representative Thomas Baker
Representative Kevin McCabe
Representative Dan Saddler
Representative Stanley Wright
Representative Jennie Armstrong
Representative Donna Mears
Representative Maxine Dibert

MEMBERS ABSENT

All members present

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HOUSE BILL NO. 349

"An Act relating to leases of public land for renewable energy projects; and providing for an effective date."

- HEARD & HELD

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 92(2D RES)

"An Act relating to state ownership of submerged land underlying navigable water within the boundaries of federal areas; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED HCS CSSB 92(RES) OUT OF COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 388

"An Act relating to state loans for oil and gas projects in the Cook Inlet sedimentary basin; relating to the Alaska Energy Authority; relating to the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority; and providing for an effective date."

- BILL HEARING CANCELED

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HB 349

SHORT TITLE: RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT LEASES
SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) GROH

02/20/24 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/20/24 (H) RES, ENE, FIN
03/08/24 (H) RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124
03/08/24 (H) Heard & Held
03/08/24 (H) MINUTE(RES)
03/11/24 (H) RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124

BILL: SB 92

SHORT TITLE: STATE OWNERSHIP OF SUBMERGED LAND
SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(s) GIESSEL BY REQUEST

03/08/23 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
03/08/23 (S) RES
03/29/23 (S) RES AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
03/29/23 (S) Heard & Held
03/29/23 (S) MINUTE(RES)
04/12/23 (S) RES AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
04/12/23 (S) Heard & Held
04/12/23 (S) MINUTE(RES)
04/14/23 (S) RES AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
04/14/23 (S) <Bill Hearing Canceled>
04/17/23 (S) RES AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
04/17/23 (S) Moved CSSB 92(RES) Out of Committee
04/17/23 (S) MINUTE(RES)
04/19/23 (S) RES RPT CS 5DP 1AM SAME TITLE
04/19/23 (S) DP: GIESSEL, BISHOP, CLAMAN, DUNBAR,
KAUFMAN
04/19/23 (S) AM: KAWASAKI
04/21/23 (S) RETURNED TO RES COMMITTEE UC
04/21/23 (H) RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124
04/21/23 (H) Scheduled but Not Heard
04/24/23 (S) RES AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
04/24/23 (S) Moved CSSB 92(2d RES) Out of Committee
04/24/23 (S) MINUTE(RES)
04/25/23 (S) RES RPT CS(2D RES) 3DP 1NR 1AM NEW
TITLE
04/25/23 (S) DP: GIESSEL, BISHOP, DUNBAR
04/25/23 (S) NR: WIELECHOWSKI
04/25/23 (S) AM: KAWASAKI
05/01/23 (S) TRANSMITTED TO (H)
05/01/23 (S) VERSION: CSSB 92(2D RES)
05/03/23 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
05/03/23 (H) RES
05/05/23 (H) RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124

05/05/23 (H) -- MEETING CANCELED --
05/08/23 (H) RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124
05/08/23 (H) Heard & Held
05/08/23 (H) MINUTE (RES)
05/10/23 (H) RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124
05/10/23 (H) -- MEETING CANCELED --
02/19/24 (H) RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124
02/19/24 (H) -- MEETING CANCELED --
02/21/24 (H) RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124
02/21/24 (H) -- MEETING CANCELED --
02/28/24 (H) RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124
02/28/24 (H) Scheduled but Not Heard
03/04/24 (H) RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124
03/04/24 (H) <Bill Hearing Rescheduled to 03/06/24>
03/06/24 (H) RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124
03/06/24 (H) <Bill Hearing Canceled>
03/11/24 (H) RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124

WITNESS REGISTER

KIM REITMEIER, President
ANCSA Regional Association
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of SB 92.

BRENT GOODRUM, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Revenue
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Gave invited testimony on Amendment 1 to CSSB 92 (2d RES).

ACTION NARRATIVE

[1:36:03 PM](#)

CHAIR MCKAY called the House Resources Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. Representatives Mears, Armstrong, McCabe, Saddler, Rauscher, and McKay were present at the call to order. Representatives Baker, Wright, and Dibert arrived as the meeting was in progress.

HB 349-RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT LEASES

[1:36:41 PM](#)

CHAIR MCKAY announced that the first order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 349, "An Act relating to leases of public land

for renewable energy projects; and providing for an effective date."

[1:37:09 PM](#)

CHAIR MCKAY opened public testimony on HB 349. After ascertaining that there was no one who wished to testify, he closed public testimony.

[HB 349 was held over.]

SB 92-STATE OWNERSHIP OF SUBMERGED LAND

[1:37:40 PM](#)

CHAIR MCKAY announced that the final order of business would be CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 92(2d RES), "An Act relating to state ownership of submerged land underlying navigable water within the boundaries of federal areas; and providing for an effective date."

[1:38:20 PM](#)

KIM REITMEIER, President, ANCSA Regional Association, said that CSSB 92(2d RES) would reaffirm what is "already" state law by adding more specific language to affirm the state's ownership of certain submerged lands. She said today, many Native corporations have yet to receive their entitlements to lands granted by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). She said that preliminary research about the bill concluded that there would be no new constitutional or legal conflicts. She said that CSSB 92(2d RES) needs an amendment to include ANCSA Regional Association's proposed language to provide protection for Alaska Native lands as the state asserts title to certain submerged lands.

[1:44:52 PM](#)

CHAIR MCKAY moved to adopt Amendment 1 to CSSB 92(2d RES), labeled 33-LS0536\U.11, Bullard, 2/26/24, which read:

Page 4, line 5:

Delete "Except as provided in AS 38.04.062(f),
as"

Insert "As"

Page 4, line 8, following "areas":

Insert ", except

- (1) as provided in AS 38.04.062(f);
- (2) land that is privately owned; and
- (3) land that has been lawfully selected for conveyance by a private party under a federal statute but that has not yet been conveyed to the private party"

Page 87, line 26, through page 88, line 2:

Delete all material.

[1:45:05 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE objected.

CHAIR MCKAY gave his explanation of Amendment 1. He said that Amendment 1 is "primarily a technical correction that moves substantive law from within the definition of federal area to the body of the bill." He said that this language was inserted initially by the Senate, and that the Senate's change was to make it clear that CSSB 92(2d RES) was meant to assert only state ownership of submerged land that is currently contested between the state and federal government. He said this would not apply to land that is privately owned or land that has been selected but not yet conveyed. He said this amendment would appropriately respond to ANCSA Regional Association's request, but only to the extent that CSSB 92(2d RES) is concerned.

[1:47:20 PM](#)

BRENT GOODRUM, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Revenue, gave invited testimony on Amendment 1 to CSSB 92(2d RES) and how it relates to current Alaska Statute that acknowledges submerged land in the state. He said that Amendment 1 addresses concerns brought forward by the ANCSA Regional Association, and no private or ANCSA lands would be impacted by this legislation. He concluded, "For these reasons, and the comments that you shared Chair McKay, the state is supportive of Amendment 1."

[1:49:10 PM](#)

CHAIR MCKAY thanked Mr. Goodrum for his testimony.

[1:49:22 PM](#)

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

[1:50:09 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RAUSCHER moved to report CSSB 92(2d RES), as amended, out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, HCS CSSB 92(RES) was reported from the House Resources Standing Committee.

[1:51:36 PM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Resources Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 1:51 p.m.