

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE**

May 4, 2023

1:02 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Kevin McCabe, Chair
Representative Sarah Vance, Vice Chair
Representative Tom McKay
Representative Jesse Sumner
Representative Louise Stutes
Representative Genevieve Mina

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Craig Johnson

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11 AM

Recognizing the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 and the importance of certain provisions intended to enhance oil spill response capabilities in Western Alaska and the United States Arctic to promote improved safety in shipping commerce, protection of communities in the state, and the health of critical marine resources; urging the United States Coast Guard to consider the unique challenges of the state when developing oil spill response requirements for Western Alaska and the United States Arctic; and urging the deployment of individualized oil spill response resources for the state that use modern technologies to track the operation of large vessels in the region and local service providers with knowledge of the region and local wildlife.

- MOVED HCS SJR 11(TRA) OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: SJR 11

SHORT TITLE: WESTERN AK/ARCTIC OIL SPILL RESPONSE

SPONSOR(S): SENATOR(S) KIEHL

03/24/23	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
03/24/23	(S)	TRA
03/30/23	(S)	TRA AT 1:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
03/30/23	(S)	Moved SJR 11 Out of Committee

03/30/23 (S) MINUTE (TRA)
03/31/23 (S) TRA RPT 2DP 3NR
03/31/23 (S) NR: KAUFMAN, MYERS, WILSON
03/31/23 (S) DP: TOBIN, KIEHL
04/28/23 (S) TRANSMITTED TO (H)
04/28/23 (S) VERSION: SJR 11 AM
05/01/23 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
05/01/23 (H) TRA
05/02/23 (H) TRA AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124
05/02/23 (H) Heard & Held
05/02/23 (H) MINUTE (TRA)
05/04/23 (H) TRA AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124

WITNESS REGISTER

BUDDY WHITT, Staff
Representative Kevin McCabe
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Explained the changes proposed in the House committee substitute for SJR 11 am.

SENATOR JESSE KIEHL
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: As prime sponsor of SJR 11 am, gave feedback regarding the changes proposed in the House committee substitute, Version U.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[1:02:56 PM](#)

CHAIR KEVIN MCCABE called the House Transportation Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Representatives Vance, McKay, Stutes, Mina, and McCabe were present at the call to order. Representative Sumner arrived as the meeting was in progress.

SJR 11-WESTERN AK/ARCTIC OIL SPILL RESPONSE

[1:03:27 PM](#)

CHAIR MCCABE announced that the only order of business would be SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11 am, Recognizing the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 and the importance of certain provisions intended to enhance oil spill response

capabilities in Western Alaska and the United States Arctic to promote improved safety in shipping commerce, protection of communities in the state, and the health of critical marine resources; urging the United States Coast Guard to consider the unique challenges of the state when developing oil spill response requirements for Western Alaska and the United States Arctic; and urging the deployment of individualized oil spill response resources for the state that use modern technologies to track the operation of large vessels in the region and local service providers with knowledge of the region and local wildlife.

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REPRESENTATIVE VANCE moved to adopt the proposed House committee substitute (HCS) for SJR 11 am, Version 33-LS0526\U, Radford, 5/2/23, as a working document.

REPRESENTATIVE STUTES objected.

CHAIR MCCABE objected for the purpose of explanation and invited Buddy Whitt to walk the committee through the changes that would be made under Version U.

[1:04:14 PM](#)

BUDDY WHITT, Staff, Representative Kevin McCabe, Alaska State Legislature, explained the changes proposed in the House committee substitute for SJR 11 am, Version U, [as shown in a document included in the committee packet, which read as follows, original punctuation provided]:

From Version B.A to Version U

Page 2, Line 14 - The phrase "and that are not subject to being diverted for other regulatory purposes" was removed.

Page 3, Line 5 - The following language was added after "United States", "Cook Inlet, and Prince William Sound".

Page 3, Line 25 - The words "each distinct specialty" were removed.

Page 4, Line 7 - The following language was removed, "and the Western Alaska oil spill planning criteria".

Page 4, Line 22 - Following the word "and", the word maximize was added.

Page 4, Line 26 - The following phrase was removed, "avoiding the comingling of oil spill response compliance requirements with other compliance requirements".

MR. WHITT added that all changes were intended to "get out of" the debate about designated versus non-designated response equipment. He further explained that at the recommendation of the bill sponsor this language would be removed so that the legislature does not take a side or "pick winners or losers." He talked about letting anyone who has a position on Western Alaska Arctic planning being able to debate the subject at the federal level.

[1:07:44 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE STUTES objected to adopting the House committee substitute, Version U.

[1:07:57 PM](#)

The committee took a brief at-ease at 1:08 p.m.

[1:08:20 PM](#)

CHAIR MCCABE invited the bill sponsor to speak and thanked him for his assistance with the proposed House committee substitute.

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SENATOR JESSE KIEHL, Alaska State Legislature, as sponsor of SJR 11 am, acknowledged Mr. Whitt's accurate description of the changes proposed under Version U. He stated that the best thing he could do is to emphasize that the changes take the resolution to a position of neutrality.

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REPRESENTATIVE STUTES spoke to her objection and described her alarm at having received the proposed HCS in an unorthodox way. She offered her understanding that the original joint resolution was passed unanimously by the Senate with 10 [co]sponsors. Then the Senate provided the House Transportation Standing Committee

with the proposed HCS; typically, she explained, the House creates its own HCS in committee. She observed the HCS seemed to have been created without full collaborative effort. She also acknowledged some conflict between the "oil spill companies," which is exhibited by the letter the committee received [included in the committee packet], and she stated she was appalled by its content. She then removed her objection so as not to "impede progress."

[1:12:44 PM](#)

CHAIR MCCABE asked if anyone else objected to the adoption of the CS. [The objection for discussion purposes previously stated by Chair McCabe was treated as withdrawn.] There being no further objection, Version U was before the committee.

[1:14:08 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE VANCE move to report HCS for SJR 11 am, Version 33-LS0526\U, Radford, 5/2/23, out of committee with individual recommendations and the attached zero fiscal note. There being no objection, HCS SJR 11(TRA) was reported out of the House Transportation Standing Committee.

[1:14:41 PM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Transportation Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.