

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE

March 14, 2024

1:31 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Forrest Dunbar, Chair

Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson

Senator Jesse Bjorkman

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Donald Olson, Vice Chair

Senator Cathy Giessel

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

SENATE BILL NO. 256

"An Act establishing May as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED SB 256 OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: SB 256

SHORT TITLE: ESTABLISH ALS AWARENESS MONTH

SPONSOR(S): STATE AFFAIRS BY REQUEST

02/28/24	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/28/24	(S)	CRA
03/12/24	(S)	CRA AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
03/12/24	(S)	Heard & Held
03/12/24	(S)	MINUTE(CRA)
03/14/24	(S)	CRA AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

WITNESS REGISTER

SENATOR SCOTT KAWASAKI, District P

Alaska State Legislature

Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Provided closing remarks on SB 256.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[1:31:21 PM](#)

CHAIR FORREST DUNBAR called the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Gray-Jackson, Bjorkman, and Chair Dunbar.

SB 256-ESTABLISH ALS AWARENESS MONTH

[1:31:45 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNBAR announced the consideration of SENATE BILL NO. 256 "An Act establishing May as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month; and providing for an effective date."

The intention is to look to the will of the committee on SB 256. The committee heard an introduction, the sectional analysis, invited testimony, and public testimony from the bill sponsor and his staff at the previous meeting. He invited Senator Kawasaki to put himself on record and provide closing comments.

[1:32:27 PM](#)

SENATOR SCOTT KAWASAKI, District P, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, provided closing remarks on SB 256, acknowledging that while the bill might not seem significant to some, it is profoundly impactful for the 60 Alaskans with ALS and their families. He explained that May is recognized as ALS Awareness Month nationally but stressed the importance of establishing local awareness in Alaska. He noted that ALS can affect anyone but is nearly twice as prevalent among military veterans, an issue of particular concern given Alaska's large veteran and active-duty population. He affirmed that SB 256 is a crucial step in raising ALS awareness and thanked the committee for its attention to the bill.

[1:34:06 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNBAR solicited the will of the committee.

[1:34:13 PM](#)

SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON moved to report SB 256, work order 33-LS1444\B, from committee with individual recommendations and attached zero fiscal note(s).

CHAIR DUNBAR found no objection and SB 256 was reported from the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee

[1:34:48 PM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Dunbar adjourned the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting at 1:34 p.m.