

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**SENATE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE**

May 7, 2024

3:17 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Senator Forrest Dunbar, Chair  
Senator Donald Olson, Vice Chair  
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson  
Senator Jesse Bjorkman

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Senator Cathy Giessel

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 347(CRA) AM  
"An Act relating to assessment of property, boards of equalization, and certification of assessors; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED SCS CSHB 347(CRA) OUT OF COMMITTEE

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: HB 347

SHORT TITLE: PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) COULOMBE

02/20/24	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/20/24	(H)	CRA
03/12/24	(H)	CRA AT 8:00 AM BARNES 124
03/12/24	(H)	Heard & Held
03/12/24	(H)	MINUTE(CRA)
03/14/24	(H)	CRA AT 8:00 AM BARNES 124
03/14/24	(H)	Heard & Held
03/14/24	(H)	MINUTE(CRA)
03/19/24	(H)	CRA AT 8:00 AM BARNES 124
03/19/24	(H)	Moved CSHB 347(CRA) Out of Committee
03/19/24	(H)	MINUTE(CRA)
03/20/24	(H)	CRA RPT CS(CRA) 4DP 2NR 1AM
03/20/24	(H)	DP: MCCABE, BAKER, MCKAY, MCCORMICK
03/20/24	(H)	NR: MEARS, HIMSCHOOT
03/20/24	(H)	AM: RUFFRIDGE

04/08/24 (H) RLS AT 6:00 PM GRUENBERG 120  
04/08/24 (H) -- MEETING CANCELED --  
04/22/24 (H) BEFORE HOUSE IN SECOND READING  
04/25/24 (S) CRA AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)  
04/25/24 (S) <Pending Referral>  
04/26/24 (H) TRANSMITTED TO (S)  
04/26/24 (H) VERSION: CSHB 347(CRA) AM  
04/29/24 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
04/29/24 (S) CRA, FIN  
04/30/24 (S) CRA AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)  
04/30/24 (S) Heard & Held  
04/30/24 (S) MINUTE(CRA)  
05/07/24 (S) CRA AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

**WITNESS REGISTER**

ARIELLE WIGGIN, Staff  
Senator Forrest Dunbar  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Presented the summary of changes from version \S.A to version \H of HB 347.

EDRA MORLEDGE, Staff  
Representative Julie Coulombe  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Offered closing comments on HB 347.

**ACTION NARRATIVE**

3:17:41 PM

**CHAIR FORREST DUNBAR** called the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:17 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Olson, Gray-Jackson, Bjorkman, and Chair Dunbar.

**HB 347-PROPERTY ASSESSMENT**

3:18:11 PM

CHAIR DUNBAR announced the consideration of CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 347(CRA) am "An Act relating to assessment of property, boards of equalization, and certification of assessors; and providing for an effective date."

This is the second hearing of HB 347 in the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee. The intention is to consider Senate committee substitute (SCS), version \H.

CHAIR DUNBAR solicited a motion.

[3:18:38 PM](#)

SENATOR OLSON moved to adopt the Senate committee substitute (SCS) for CSHB 347, work order 33-LS1430\H, as the working document.

[3:18:58 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNBAR objected for purposes of discussion. He invited Ms. Wiggin to present the summary of changes.

[3:19:18 PM](#)

ARIELLE WIGGIN, Staff, Senator Forrest Dunbar, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, presented the summary of changes from version \S.A to version \H of HB 347, stating the SCS makes the following changes to the bill:

[Adds: "**relating to municipal property tax;**" to the bill title.

**Adds two new sections, Section 1 and Section 2**

Sections 1 and Section [2] are a compilation of versions reported out of House committees. This merges SB 77, the municipal property tax exemption/tax blighted property legislation into HB 347.

**Section 6**

Inserts the following:

- **or a person designated by the assessor**

This allows someone designated by the assessor to meet with property owners.

Inserts the following:

- **The meeting required under this subsection may be virtual or telephonic.**

This clarifies that the meeting, whether with the assessor or the designee, may occur virtually or over the phone to accommodate small municipalities with contract assessors.

**Adds a new section, Section 9**

This states: "Home rule and first class cities inside boroughs may levy a tax under AS 29.45.057."

Sections 11 and 12 correct section references.]

[3:20:29 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNBAR gave a brief recap of the bill history for SB 77 and said it is unlikely the House floor would hear it.

[3:20:52 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNBAR withdrew his objection. He found no further objection and SCS CSHB 77 was adopted as the working document.

CHAIR DUNBAR invited closing comments.

[3:21:19 PM](#)

EDRA MORLEDGE, Staff, Representative Julie Coulombe, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, offered closing comments on HB 347. She said Representative Coulombe appreciates the committee for hearing HB 347 and looks forward to the bill passing both bodies.

[3:21:35 PM](#)

SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON thanked the sponsor for HB 347 and the Chair for the SCS.

[3:22:12 PM](#)

SENATOR OLSON asked whether the sponsor supports the SCS.

[3:22:18 PM](#)

MS. MORLEDGE replied the sponsor favored SB 77 and advocated for it.

SENATOR OLSON asked whether the sponsor has a position on the SCS.

MS. MORLEDGE replied that the sponsor will push for the passage of HB 347.

[3:22:58 PM](#)

SENATOR BJORKMAN questioned the insertion of SB 77, the municipal property tax exemption/tax blighted property legislation. He recalled that SB 77 had two parts, one of which was benign while the other was controversial. He asked whether the insertion of SB 77 language into HB 347 imposed a tax on property that otherwise would not be taxed.

[3:23:27 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNBAR opined that both sections of SB 77 were benign. He explained that the version passed by House Finance included both the first half of SB 77 and the blighted property provision. He

clarified that there is no automatic additional property tax, but municipalities have the option to impose a blight tax. He noted that the House version incorporated amendments addressing Senate floor concerns, adding further restrictions on municipalities' ability to levy the tax.

[3:24:13 PM](#)

SENATOR BJORKMAN said that he will reserve judgment as this is the first time to see version \H of HB 347.

[3:24:34 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNBAR solicited the will of the committee.

[3:24:37 PM](#)

SENATOR OLSON moved to report SCS CSHB 347, work order 33-1430\H, from committee with individual recommendations and attached forthcoming fiscal note(s).

[3:24:57 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNBAR found no objection and SCS CSHB 347(CRA) was reported from the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee.

[3:25:08 PM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Dunbar adjourned the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting at 3:25 p.m.