

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
February 8, 2023
9:02 a.m.

9:02:24 AM

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Olson called the Senate Finance Committee meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Lyman Hoffman, Co-Chair
Senator Donny Olson, Co-Chair
Senator Bert Stedman, Co-Chair
Senator Click Bishop
Senator Jesse Kiehl
Senator Kelly Merrick
Senator David Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ALSO PRESENT

Senator James Kaufman, Sponsor; Matthew Harvey, Staff to Senator Kaufman; Alexei Painter, Director, Legislative Finance Division; Jasmin Martin, Staff to Senator Wilson; James Cockrell, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety; Rob Carpenter, Deputy Director, Division of Legislative Finance.

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

Joel Butcher, Association of Public Safety Communications Officials.

SUMMARY

SB 25 REPEALING FUNDS, ACCOUNTS, AND PROGRAMS

SB 25 was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

SB 38 INTERFERENCE WITH EMERGENCY SERVICES

SB 38 was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

Co-Chair Olson discussed the agenda. He explained that the decision to hear the legislation did not indicate the intent of the chair to move the legislation.

#sb25

SENATE BILL NO. 25

"An Act relating to inactive state accounts and funds; relating to the curriculum improvement and best practices fund; relating to the fuel emergency fund and fuel emergency grants; relating to the special Alaska Historical Commission receipts account; relating to the rural electrification revolving loan fund and loans from the fund; relating to the Southeast energy fund and grants from the fund; and relating to the Exxon Valdez oil spill unincorporated rural community grant fund and grants from the fund."

[9:04:01 AM](#)

Co-Chair Olson read the short title of the bill.

[9:04:20 AM](#)

SENATOR JAMES KAUFMAN, SPONSOR, read from the Sponsor Statement (copy on file):

SB 25, in its current form, is intended to improve performance by reducing administrative cost and complexity associated with of maintenance and tracking of accounts that are no longer needed but are still open.

The state of Alaska at various times creates special accounts to receive and hold money for certain purposes, but over time some of those funds become dormant and are no longer needed.

This can include filled funds that are not supporting active programs, empty funds that are not supporting active programs and funds held in trust.

Reducing the administrative burden of maintaining unneeded funds is a prime example of the type of

incremental continuous improvement that is needed as Alaska faces new fiscal challenges. Alongside this important reduction, SB 25 creates a simple feedback loop which provides decision-makers with the necessary tools to reduce other funds as recommended.

To find candidates for this reduction, we performed an initial screening for inactive funds. This led to an analysis of the financial and statutory basis for 39 existing funds. The analysis and deliberative process revealed six funds which are no longer needed for the originally intended purpose and can therefore be closed. Any proceeds can then be forwarded to the Unrestricted General Fund. The specific funds for this action are listed below:

- AS 41.35.380 - Alaska Historical Commission Receipts Account
- AS 26.23.400 - Fuel Emergency Fund
- AS 44.33.115 - Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Unincorporated Rural Community Grant Fund
- AS 42.45.020 - Rural Electrification Revolving Loan Fund
- AS 42.45.040 - Southeast Energy Fund
- AS 14.07.182 - Curriculum Improvement and Best Practices Fund

[9:07:08 AM](#)

MATTHEW HARVEY, STAFF TO SENATOR KAUFMAN, addressed a Sectional Analysis (copy on file):

Section 1:

Amends AS 24.20.020 to add a requirement for the Legislative Finance Division to conduct a review of inactive state accounts and funds at the beginning of each new legislature and to submit an electronic report including recommendations regarding which inactive state accounts and funds should be repealed. The report distribution list is included in this section.

Section 2:

Adds a new subsection to AS 37.07.020 stating that the governor may act upon the Legislative Finance Division report in Section 1 of SB 25 by submitting legislation in accordance with the report.

Section 3:

Repeals the statutory authority for the following funds not supporting current or active programs.

- AS 14.07.182 - Curriculum Improvement and Best Practices Fund
- AS 26.23.400 - Fuel Emergency Fund
- AS 41.35.380 - Alaska Historical Commission Receipts Account
- AS 42.45.020 - Rural Electrification Revolving Loan Fund
- AS 42.45.040 - Southeast Energy Fund
- AS 44.33.115 - Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Unincorporated Rural Community Grant Fund

[9:08:37 AM](#)

Co-Chair Stedman mentioned the re-establishment of account balances through the reverse sweep, which was common practice in previous years. He pointed out that certain funds listed were holding accounts. He thought that there was sometimes a political endeavor to do an energy enhancement capital investment and the statutorily established energy funds were used to make enhancement equitable throughout the state. He used the example of a new dam or power line extension. He shared concern that the proposed policy could inadvertently put rural Alaska at a disadvantage.

Co-Chair Olson shared Co-Chair Stedman's concern and mentioned funds that had been used in the past to provide energy to areas not on the Railbelt.

[9:11:01 AM](#)

Senator Kaufman relayed that the intent of the bill was to reduce funds that were not needed. He explained that there had been a long list that had been worked through. He highlighted that the initial piece of the bill was to comprise a list of funds for review and then delete accounts that were not needed or no longer required. The impetus for the bill had come from a discussion with the Office of Management and Budget.

Co-Chair Olson thought Senator Kaufman was not opposed to adding to or taking away from the funds previously listed.

Senator Kaufman answered affirmatively.

[9:12:46 AM](#)

Senator Wilson asked whether the sponsor knew the amounts sitting in each of the funds and how long the funds had been active.

Senator Kaufman stated that of the accounts listed, the Fuel Emergency Fund had \$22,523.74.

Co-Chair Olson asked about the amounts of other listed funds.

[9:13:40 AM](#)

Senator Kaufman did not recall the entire list. He said that work had been done to determine the 6 funds listed in Section 3.

Co-Chair Olson asked whether there were any of the 6 funds listed that had significant balances.

Senator Kaufman replied that the most significant balance had been in the Fuel Emergency Fund.

[9:14:17 AM](#)

Senator Wilson asked whether there was a certain criterion as to how long the funds were inactive before they were removed.

Senator Kaufman relayed that that detail had not been established. He thought it would be difficult to create a useful criterion, the funds would be reviewed to determine whether they were necessary.

[9:14:56 AM](#)

Senator Kiehl had a question about the bill structure. He thought the bill suggested that the Legislative Finance Division (LFD) make recommendations to the legislature about funds to delete. He noted that LFD did not generally provide opinions to the committee as a rule. He wondered whether there was criterion that LFD should use in their recommendations to the committee.

Senator Kaufman said that the funds that had been selected by the assessment had been determined to be obviously

unnecessary. He said that there had been a range of reasons. He thought that LFD would be providing observations about the funds and not an opinion.

[9:16:43 AM](#)

Co-Chair Stedman expressed concern about the potential for inequity and energy projects being concentrated in one area of the state to the detriment of another. He mentioned the Power Cost Equalization fund. He thought that the inability to protect the funds from the sweep would prove problematic in the future.

Senator Kaufman reiterated that the list was a result of the assessment, and he would welcome any additions or deletions. He stated that the bill would create a review cycle to delete unnecessary accounts. He described the bill as a bookkeeping and cleanup tool.

[9:19:09 AM](#)

Co-Chair Hoffman agreed with the concept proposed in the bill. He addressed the Fuel Emergency Fund, which he considered to be a "tool in the toolbox," that may not be utilized for several years but would still be important to fund emergencies in rural communities. He echoed the concerns expressed by Co-Chair Stedman and Co-Chair Olson.

Senator Kaufman relayed that the bill had started with a long list, and after review had been paired down to 6 funds. He suggested that any amendments that came forward would be welcome.

[9:21:34 AM](#)

Senator Merrick wanted to hear from LFD. She wondered whether there was another account where the funds could reside that would serve the same purpose.

Co-Chair Olson added that LFD would be called up later in the meeting.

[9:22:08 AM](#)

Senator Kaufman thanked the committee for hearing the legislation.

[9:22:43 AM](#)

ALEXEI PAINTER, DIRECTOR, LEGISLATIVE FINANCE DIVISION, relayed that he would address some questions. He cited that the Fuel Emergency Fund had not been used since 2000, when the Disaster Relief Fund statute had been modified to allow for fuel emergencies. He mentioned the Rural Electrification Revolving Loan Fund, which had been supplanted by the Electrical Service Extension Fund in the 1990s. He said that the use of that fund since then had been to repay past loans, which had all been settled. He mentioned the Southeast Energy fund, which was originally capitalized as part of the Four Dam Pool project. He continued that the PCE statute had been amended in 1999 to divert the revenue into the PCE fund.

Mr. Painter continued to address the genesis of some of the funds listed, noting that he had once worked at OMB and was aware of the funds. He said that one of the criteria had been to seek out funds that had no source of ongoing revenue. He noted that there were still repayments being made decades after the genesis of some funds, which meant that the funds could not be repealed even after they had been rendered obsolete. He thought the funds listed were identified as having no ongoing source of revenue, no current program, or likely future program that would recreate them. He supposed that a committee or legislature could add money to a fund outside of the original statutory revenue flow, but they would be subject to the CBR sweep.

[9:26:42 AM](#)

Senator Wilson asked whether there was a time frame that Mr. Painter recommended for deletion of funds.

Mr. Painter was not sure that there was a single answer to Senator Wilson's question, but rather LFD would work towards determining whether there was any ongoing activity in the fund or prospect for replenishment. He thought that there could be funds that were created by appropriation that the legislature could want to fund again.

[9:27:53 AM](#)

Senator Bishop asked whether the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Unincorporated Rural Community Grant Fund was fully expended.

Mr. Painter replied in the affirmative. He explained that there had been two funds related to the spill: the civil fund, which was still active, and the fund related to criminal penalties, which was used to pay unincorporated communities impacted by the spill and was completely granted out.

[9:28:45 AM](#)

Co-Chair Stedman asked whether Mr. Painter had any recommendations for a similar fund to use as a "parking garage" for funds to assure equity in energy projects.

Mr. Painter thought one option would be to amend a fund to create a new source of revenue. He stated that if there were investment in a new project a portion of that revenue could be diverted in the spirit of equity. Another option would be to put the funds in a non-sweepable account without a designed purpose, but there was a risk that the funds could be unavailable from year to year. He recommended statute modification in regard to maintaining statewide energy equity.

[9:30:46 AM](#)

Co-Chair Olson thought it was unusual to have a recommendation from LFD regarding the funds. He asked whether his concern was misplaced. He thought Mr. Painter had institutional knowledge, which added to his credibility on the matter.

Mr. Painter clarified that he worked for OMB in 2020 and not when the funds were created. He mentioned the Indirect Expenditure Report, which gave the division the duty to make recommendations on indirect expenditures and whether they should be repealed. He thought that the idea behind the legislation could fall under that purview.

Co-Chair Olson asked whether Mr. Painter was comfortable with the duty.

Mr. Painter replied that LFD was not comfortable making any kind of policy recommendation. He described that reviewing the funds was something that the division could do in a limited fashion, only looking at whether items were following legislative intent. He thought that the divisions

scope would be limited and would be conservative in their determinations in order to maintain a non-partisan stance.

[9:33:21 AM](#)

Senator Merrick asked what determined which funds were sweepable, and whether the list of sweepable funds was subject to change.

Mr. Painter relayed that the statute that determined which funds were sweepable had been deemed unconstitutional in the 1990s. Since that time, the matter has been interpreted and executed by the administration. He said that the interpretation of sweepability of funds had changed as new legal opinions had been penned as there was no current statute.

[9:34:28 AM](#)

Co-Chair Olson asked whether Mr. Painter wanted to address the fiscal note.

Mr. Painter discussed a fiscal note from the Legislature with an allocation for Legislative Finance, OMB Component 774. He explained that the bill had a zero fiscal note, as the new duty created by the bill could be absorbed by the division.

[9:35:16 AM](#)

AT EASE

[9:36:09 AM](#)

RECONVENED

Co-Chair Olson OPENED public testimony.

[9:36:33 AM](#)

Co-Chair Olson CLOSED public testimony.

[9:36:47 AM](#)

Senator Kaufman thanked the committee and expressed appreciation for the members' questions. He reiterated that amendments to the legislation were welcome.

SB 25 was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

[9:37:17 AM](#)

AT EASE

[9:38:40 AM](#)

RECONVENED

#sb38

SENATE BILL NO. 38

"An Act establishing the crime of interference with emergency communications."

[9:38:43 AM](#)

Co-Chair Olson read the bill title. He noted that the senate had passed the bill the previous session, but it had not passed the other body.

[9:39:28 AM](#)

Senator David Wilson, Sponsor, offered a sponsor statement:

Senate Bill 38 establishes the offense of interference with emergency communications. This statute would apply when a person: repeatedly makes 911 calls to report something they know has already been reported, repeatedly calls 911 when there is no emergency, or harasses or threatens a 911 operator.

Interference with emergency communications -- the misuse, abuse, and disruption of 911 dispatch centers -- is a problem that severely impacts public safety and emergency response by delaying responses to real emergencies. It is prevalent at dispatch centers across Alaska and must be addressed.

During these disruptive events, other urgent emergency calls must be placed on hold or delayed to meet standards; industry standards are that all 911 calls must be answered within 15-20 seconds. A dispatcher could be required to place the parent of a choking child on hold to answer repeated calls from a harassing individual who is not in need of emergency services, delaying necessary life-saving measures.

Under the language in the bill, that harasser could be charged. Currently, state statute does not address harassing behavior specific to 911 dispatch centers, nor does it give law enforcement adequate recourse to stop the behavior.

This problem is not unique to Alaska. Other states have developed legislation that makes interfering with emergency communications an arrestable offense -- which is the most effective way to stop the interference -- thus allowing 911 telecommunicators to focus on legitimate emergencies.

Please contact Jasmin Martin in my office at (907)465-8165 or by email at Jasmin.Martin@akleg.gov for more information. I respectfully ask for your support of this legislation.

[9:42:02 AM](#)

JASMIN MARTIN, STAFF TO SENATOR WILSON, addressed a Sectional Analysis (copy on file):

Section 1: Adds a new section (.785. Interference with emergency communications) to AS 11.56. (Criminal Law, 56. Offenses Against Public Administration).

(a) Establishes that a person commits a crime of interference with emergency communication when they:

(1) Call 911 to elicit a first responder response for a previously reported incident when there has been no change in circumstances, and they have been instructed to stop calling

(2) Make repeated 911 calls when there is no emergency.

(3) Threaten 911 operator during a call to 911.

(b) Defines: "emergency communication," "emergency communication center," and "emergency communication worker."

(c) Establishes that this crime is a class B misdemeanor.

Section 2: Adds a section to uncodified law that specifies that this act is not applicable to offenses committed prior to this legislation.

[9:43:27 AM](#)

Co-Chair Hoffman asked what communities had 911 operators, and whether the communities had municipal operators or operators answering on a statewide switchboard.

Senator Wilson relayed that there were regionally contracted dispatchers and call centers throughout the state that catered to communities. He thought the Department of Public Safety commissioner could answer the question.

Co-Chair Hoffman shared an incident in which a plane crashed in Cook Inlet, which had not been successfully responded to, which resulted in a fatality.

Co-Chair Olson commented that the incident had been significantly troubling.

[9:45:26 AM](#)

JAMES COCKRELL, COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, detailed that when individuals called into 911 for frivolous reasons it wasted resources and caused undue stress for dispatchers. He stressed that non-emergency calls tied up the lines and interfered with the response to real emergencies. He hoped that the threat of legal action would deter people from calling 911 for any other reason but for emergencies.

[9:47:39 AM](#)

Co-Chair Hoffman asked how the 911 dispatches were addressed in major hubs in rural Alaska such as Unalaska, Dillingham, and Bethel.

Commissioner Cockrell thought that each of those communities had their own dispatch centers. He said that areas outside of those communities were "trunk lined" to the Fairbanks dispatch center.

Co-Chair Hoffman understood that in the past Bethel had its 911 dispatch operated by the police department, which switched over during the off-business hours to the Alaska State Troopers (AST). He asked whether this was still the case.

Commissioner Cockrell replied that he did not know.

Co-Chair Hoffman wanted to have his question answered. He acknowledged that the question veered from the intent of the legislation under discussion. He emphasized that the communities did not have the finances to have a 911 dispatcher, which was challenging for the safety of those communities.

[9:49:19 AM](#)

Commissioner Cockrell acknowledged the struggles and challenges that the department had in providing meaningful service to rural areas of the state. He spoke of the challenges of trunk lines. He said that the upgrades necessary to phone towers were expensive.

Co-Chair Hoffman thought that after the request had been made, the more important thing would be getting service to rural areas of the state. He cited the need for additional AST personnel in rural areas.

[9:51:00 AM](#)

Commissioner Cockrell commented that the department was focused on putting more AST in rural areas. He knew there were issues such as housing that had not been overcome. He said he was committed to putting law enforcement in rural Alaska.

Co-Chair Olson thanked the commissioner for his efforts. He considered 911 calls and asked what role the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) had in responding to 911 calls.

Commissioner Cockrell expressed that the VPSO Program was important to the department. He relayed that VPSOs would be alerted when 911 calls were made in communities they served.

Co-Chair Olson asked what percentage of 911 calls were perceived to be harassment as opposed to legitimate emergency calls.

Commissioner Cockrell did not have the information at hand but mentioned that when harassment calls came in it was disruptive.

[9:54:00 AM](#)

Co-Chair Olson asked whether the department had the capability to find where calls to 911 were originating.

Commissioner Cockrell said that land line location could be determined but cell phones made tracking where phone calls originated mor difficult to establish.

[9:55:09 AM](#)

Co-Chair Stedman asked for help understanding how the bill with harassing or prank calls.

Commissioner Cockrell relayed that under the bill, if the caller's location could be established, they could face legal consequences.

[9:56:04 AM](#)

Senator Bishop asked whether calls would be traced in order to identify offenders.

Commissioner Cockrell thought there were some experts who could address Senator Bishop's question. He thought in many situations the identity of frequently disruptive callers was already known.

[9:56:50 AM](#)

Co-Chair Hoffman referenced his earlier question pertaining to a plane crash in Cook Inlet. He recalled that the 911 call had gone up to Fairbanks and was not relayed to the vicinity where the emergency occurred. He wondered how the situation had been rectified.

Commissioner Cockrell thought the situation had occurred six or seven years ago. He thought the emergency call had been made on a satellite phone, which had relayed it to Fairbanks. He thought the call had not been transferred to Mat-Com, which had led to the lack of emergency response. He did not know if there had been any resolution on the matter.

Co-Chair Hoffman requested that the commissioner look into how the problem could be rectified.

Commissioner Cockrell agreed to look into the matter.

9:58:41 AM

AT EASE

10:00:14 AM

RECONVENED

JOEL BUTCHER, ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICIALS (via teleconference), relayed that he resided in Wasilla and was tech support for Mat-Com. He relayed that he was part of the National Emergency Numbers Association (NENA). He noted that there was no current state statute that addressed or criminalized the type of activity addressed in the bill. He qualified that the bill did not propose to criminalize those that dialed 911 in error, but rather those who abused the system. He urged support for the legislation.

Co-Chair Olson asked for the percentage of people that were misusing the system.

Mr. Butcher relayed that past experiences had occurred when someone repeatedly called even after being asked to stop calling. He said that the callers were either angry or in a "mental state" where they felt they had no other application to vent their frustration. He said that the situations were rare but often happened at inopportune times. He said that the legislation had been in the works for several years and was the result of an instance where a dispatcher had to file a police report personally in order to get a caller to stop repeatedly calling 911 and harassing the dispatcher. He said that calls of the nature described in the bill happened to dispatchers in his jurisdiction 2 or 3 times per year.

10:04:44 AM

Co-Chair Olson thought he heard that of 3,200 phone calls, 231 were accidental and 1 or 2 were menacing.

Mr. Butcher relayed that in the month of January 2023, there had been 731 accidental misdials to the Mat-Com dispatch center, none of which rose to the level of harassment detailed in the bill.

Co-Chair Olson asked what other states had done to try and stop the phone calls that were interfering with legitimate 911 calls.

Mr. Butcher shared that there were 23 states with similar statutes. He had found statutes in seven different states: Iowa, Tennessee, Connecticut, Florida, Texas, Georgia, and California.

Co-Chair Olson asked how effective the statutes had been in stopping illegal activity.

Mr. Butcher relayed that the statutes were effective and being used to charge individuals that misused the system.

[10:08:05 AM](#)

Co-Chair Olson OPENED public testimony.

[10:08:14 AM](#)

Co-Chair Olson CLOSED public testimony.

[10:08:22 AM](#)

Senator Bishop asked what constituted a threat against a 911 operator and whether it was defined in statute.

Ms. Martin explained that "threat" was defined in AS 11.81.900 and was under the statutes related to extortion.

Senator Bishop asked whether a Class B misdemeanor applied to minors.

Ms. Martin did not have the information at hand.

Senator Wilson answered affirmatively.

[10:10:07 AM](#)

Senator Wilson addressed FN 1 from the Department of Administration, OMB Component 43. The note reflected \$225,000 of UGF funds through FY29 for the additional work created by the legislation:

This bill creates several new crimes that are Class B misdemeanors. The bill prohibits a person from repeatedly contacting emergency services to report an incident that has been previously reported after an emergency worker instructs the person to stop making contact. The bill also prohibits making repeat

contacts to emergency services knowing there is no emergency or threatening an emergency worker.

New crimes result in additional workload for the Office of Public Advocacy. The Agency is unable to absorb additional workload increases as a result of trial case backlog created by jury trial suspensions in response to Covid-19 and by unprecedented recruitment and retention challenges facing public advocacy nationwide. The Agency is therefore requesting one Attorney position in FY24 and beyond.

Senator Wilson addressed FN 2 from the Department of Administration, OMB Component 1631. The note showed expenses of \$205,800 through FY29. The note had a similar analysis of increased workload for the Public Defender Agency as the previous note.

Senator Wilson addressed FN 3 from the Department of Corrections, OMB Component 1381. The note reflected zero fiscal impact:

This legislation amends AS 11.56 by adding a new section AS 11.56.785 creating a crime of interference with emergency communications. This legislation would make interference with emergency communications a class B misdemeanor.

Since this is a new offense, the department has no historical data to be able to determine how many convictions will occur under this statute or the length of incarceration and cannot determine the actual impact to the daily prison population.

However, based on the current prison population, any increase can be absorbed within the department's existing resources and capacity. Therefore, a zero fiscal note is submitted for this legislation.

Senator Wilson addressed FN 4 from the Department of Law, OMB Component 2202, which reflected zero fiscal impact:

This bill establishes the crime of interference with emergency communications. A person is guilty of interfering with emergency communications if they knowingly make repeated calls to an emergency communications center to report an incident that has

already been reported and continues to call after being asked not to, makes repeated calls to an emergency communications center knowing that there is not an emergency, or threatens an emergency communications worker.

Interference with emergency communications is a class B misdemeanor.

It is unclear how many additional cases would be referred to the Criminal Division for prosecution if this bill were to pass. However, the targeted conduct is very specific and, therefore, the department does not anticipate that the potential increase in cases will have a fiscal impact.

Senator Wilson addressed FN 5 from the Department of Public Safety, OMB Component 3346, which was a zero fiscal note:

This bill deters the misuse and abusive calls that cause disruption to 911 dispatch centers and appropriately holds offenders accountable by criminalizing conduct relating to interference with emergency communications. Interference with emergency communications creates situations that can delay response time to real emergencies. During these disruptive events, other urgent emergency calls must be placed on hold or delayed in order to meet the industry standard that all calls must be answered within 15-20 seconds.

Current laws do not address harassing behavior specific to 911 emergency dispatch centers and dispatch personnel.

To charge under harassment in the second degree (AS 11.61.120), dispatchers must file individually as the victims of harassment which gives the harassing individual access to a dispatcher's first and last names through court records rather than protecting their anonymity. The crime of false information or report (AS 11.56.800) does not cover incidents where harassment or other disruptive calls are made but no report or information was provided.

Having a specific statute that addresses calls that intentionally interfere with emergency communications

can help reduce this problem and allow 911 dispatchers to focus on doing their best to assist with legitimate emergencies.

There is no fiscal impact.

10:13:20 AM

Co-Chair Hoffman asked whether the current version of the bill was identical to the bill that had passed the committee the previous year.

Senator Wilson cited that there was a small change to the bill that was technical in nature.

Co-Chair Hoffman asked if FN 1 and FN 2 were different than the fiscal notes in the previous legislation.

Co-Chair Olson pointed out that there were staff from LFD that could address the fiscal note.

Senator Wilson answered that the fiscal impact notes were new. He said that additional analysis has been requested from the Department of Public Safety.

10:16:01 AM

ROB CARPENTER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE FINANCE relayed that the notes containing fiscal impact were minimal and some indeterminate. He thought that the fiscally impacted agencies should go through the regular budget process to request the funds they might need as a result of the legislation.

Senator Wilson understood that there was a cost to the state. He referenced an incident in Big Lake where there had been a drowning emergency that was impeded by over 80 harassing calls to dispatchers. He emphasized that the bill was intended to provide a deterrent to individuals to refrain from misusing the 911 service.

Co-Chair Olson asked how to separate those people that had mental health issues and might need emergency assistance from those making harassing calls.

Senator Wilson relayed that the bill provided a tool to send a first responder to a home to check on the caller. He

mentioned a mobile crisis response team could be sent to assist people in crisis.

SB 30 was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

Co-Chair Olson discussed housekeeping.

#

ADJOURNMENT

10:20:38 AM

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.