

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

April 18, 2024

9:02 a.m.

[9:02:58 AM](#)

CALL TO ORDER

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Bert Stedman, Co-Chair
Senator Click Bishop
Senator Jesse Kiehl
Senator Kelly Merrick
Senator David Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Lyman Hoffman, Co-Chair
Senator Donny Olson, Co-Chair

ALSO PRESENT

Ken Alper, Staff to Senator Donny Olson;

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

SUMMARY

SB 85 PERM FUND; EMPLOYMENT; ELIGIBILITY

SB 85 was heard and HELD in Committee for further consideration.

SB 125 AK HOUSING FINANCE CORP: SUSTAIN ENERGY

SB 125 was heard and HELD in Committee for further consideration.

SB 259 COMPENSATION FOR CERTAIN STATE EMPLOYEES

CSSB 259 was REPORTED out of committee as amended with three "do pass" recommendations and with two "no recommendation" recommendations, and with one new fiscal impact note from the Governor and Various departments.

Co-Chair Stedman discussed the agenda.

#sb259

SENATE BILL NO. 259

"An Act relating to the basic salary schedule for compensation of state employees; and providing for an effective date."

[9:04:01 AM](#)

Co-Chair Stedman relayed that the committee had first heard SB 259 on March 25, and had taken public testimony on April 17, 2024.

[9:04:58 AM](#)

KEN ALPER, STAFF TO SENATOR DONNY OLSON, recalled the changes to the committee substitute, which had removed the retroactivity provision. The new fiscal note reflected the change. He noted that there was a single fiscal note across all agencies.

Senator Kiehl MOVED to report CSSB 259(FIN) out of Committee as amended with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal note. There being NO OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

CSSB 259 was REPORTED out of committee as amended with three "do pass" recommendations and with two "no recommendation" recommendations, and with one new fiscal impact note from the Governor and Various departments.

#sb85

SENATE BILL NO. 85

"An Act relating to record checks for certain employees of the Department of Revenue; relating to permanent fund dividends; and providing for an effective date."

[9:06:22 AM](#)

Co-Chair Stedman noted that the bill had first been heard on February 26, 2024 at which time public testimony had been taken.

Senator Merrick MOVED proposed committee substitute for SB 85, Work Draft 33-GS1337\U (Nauman, 3/25/24).

Co-Chair Stedman OBJECTED for discussion.

Mr. Alper said that the bill provided "clean up" regarding administration of the Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) both in the area of allowable absences for application as well as Merchant Marines when they were at academy. The bill also spoke to background checks for APFC employees. He relayed that the public list of PFD applicant names had been problematic, and the CS would make that list confidential. The effective date had also been updated.

[9:09:07 AM](#)

AT EASE

[9:09:13 AM](#)

RECONVINED

Co-Chair Stedman WITHDREW his objection. There being NO OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

SB 85 was heard and HELD in Committee for further consideration.

#sb125

SENATE BILL NO. 125

"An Act relating to subsidiary corporations of the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation; and establishing the Alaska energy independence fund."

[9:09:38 AM](#)

Co-Chair Stedman relayed that the committee had heard the bill on May 5, 2024 at which time public testimony had been taken.

Senator Wilson MOVED to ADOPT proposed committee substitute for SB 125, Work Draft 33-GS1074\U (Walsh, 4/9/24).

Co-Chair Stedman OBJECTED for discussion.

Mr. Alper shared the bill's history. He noted that the current CS made several small changes. The word "affordable" had been removed to indicate that housing of all types would be worked on with the understanding that there was a need for a variety of housing options. He said that language in the New Fund section of Section 3 of the bill had been added that said that subsidiary corporations should prioritize residential and commercial buildings.

Co-Chair Stedman WITHDREW his objection. There being NO OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

SB 125 was heard and HELD in Committee for further consideration.

Co-Chair Stedman discussed housekeeping.

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ADJOURNMENT

9:13:19 AM

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 a.m.