

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE STANDING COMMITTEE

May 3, 2023
1:33 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Jesse Bjorkman, Chair
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson
Senator Forrest Dunbar

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Click Bishop, Vice Chair
Senator Kelly Merrick

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

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."

- MOVED CSSB 85(L&C) OUT OF COMMITTEE

CONFIRMATION HEARING(S)

Alaska Labor Relations Agency
Jennifer McConnel - Girdwood

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Alaska Workers' Compensation Board
John Corbett - Fairbanks
Jonathon Dartt - Fairbanks
Anthony Ladd - Anchorage
Lake Williams - Fairbanks
Steven Heidemann - Anchorage
Marc Stemp - Anchorage

- CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
Dana Walukiewicz - Anchorage
David Koch - Anchorage

- CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

Board of Barbers and Hairdressers

Breanna Hardy - North Pole

Glenda Ledford - Wasilla

- CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

Board of Certified Direct Entry Midwives

Darcy Lucey - Wasilla

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Board of Dental Examiners

Jonathan Woller - Fairbanks

Jesse Hronkin - Palmer

Megan Ferguson - Anchorage

Newell Walther - Wasilla

Kenley Michaud - Anchorage

- CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

Board of Nursing

Danette Schloeder - Anchorage

Vianne Smith - North Pole

- CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

Board of Marital and Family Therapy

Noah Shields - Kenai

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Board of Massage Therapists

Tonia Nelson - Anchorage

Annetta Atwell - North Pole

- CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

Board of Pharmacy

Sara Rasmussen - Anchorage

Carla Hebert - Anchorage

- CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

Board of Social Work Examiners

Stacey Stone - Anchorage

Ann Applebee - Palmer
Amber Taylor - JBER

- CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

Marijuana Control Board
Ely Cyrus - Kiana
Christopher Jaime - Anchorage

- CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

Real Estate Commission
Cheryl Markwood - Fairbanks
Devon Thomas - Wasilla

- CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

Board of Professional Counselors
Teresa Cotton - Bethel
Rachel Buddin-Young - Eagle River

- CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

State Physical Therapy and
Occupational Therapy Board
Tina McLean - Seward
Lindsey Hill - Sterling
Valerie Phelps - Anchorage
Bryan Murphy - Anchorage

- CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

SENATE BILL NO. 73

"An Act relating to registered interior designers and interior design; establishing requirements for the practice of registered interior design; renaming the State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors the State Board of Registration for Design Professionals; relating to the State Board of Registration for Design Professionals; relating to liens for labor or materials furnished; relating to the procurement of interior design services; and providing for an effective date."

- BILL HEARING CANCELED

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: SB 85

SHORT TITLE: PERM FUND; EMPLOYMENT; ELIGIBILITY

SPONSOR(S): RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

02/24/23	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/24/23	(S)	L&C, FIN
04/05/23	(S)	L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
04/05/23	(S)	Heard & Held
04/05/23	(S)	MINUTE(L&C)
04/19/23	(S)	L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
04/19/23	(S)	Moved CSSB 85(L&C) Out of Committee
04/19/23	(S)	MINUTE(L&C)
05/03/23	(S)	L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

WITNESS REGISTER

KONRAD JACKSON, Staff
Senator Jesse Bjorkman
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Presented the explanation of changes found in the committee substitute for SB 85 and reviewed the Governor's Appointees referred to the Senate Labor and Commerce Standing Committee.

ACTION NARRATIVE

1:33:11 PM

CHAIR JESSE BJORKMAN called the Senate Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Dunbar, Gray-Jackson, and Chair Bjorkman.

SB 85-PERM FUND; EMPLOYMENT; ELIGIBILITY

1:34:17 PM

CHAIR BJORKMAN announced the consideration of 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."

He stated that this is the third hearing of this bill. Amendment 1 was adopted on April 19 and the bill was reported from committee. It is the intention today to rescind the previous action in reporting the bill from committee, adopt a committee substitute that incorporates Amendment 1, ensure that all

members understand the changes, and report the bill from committee.

CHAIR BJORKMAN sought the will of the committee.

[1:35:19 PM](#)

SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON moved that the committee rescind its previous action in reporting SB 85, work order 33-GS1337\A, as amended, from committee.

[1:35:30 PM](#)

CHAIR BJORKMAN found no objection and the previous action to report the bill from committee was rescinded.

CHAIR BJORKMAN solicited a motion to adopt the committee substitute.

[1:35:39 PM](#)

SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON moved to adopt the committee substitute (CS) for SB 85, work order 33-GS1337\S, as the working document.

CHAIR BJORKMAN objected for purposes of discussion.

[1:36:07 PM](#)

KONRAD JACKSON, Staff, Senator Jesse Bjorkman, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, presented the explanation of changes in the committee substitute for SB 85.

He stated that when legislative legal reviews a bill they did not draft, there can be substantial changes. The following explanation of the CS is an effort to ensure that members of the committee are still in agreement with the contents of the committee substitute:

[Original punctuation has been provided.]

Old Section 1 is deleted

The language, previously added in section 1, was then added with the new language providing for background checks to the appropriate subsection of statute. That being AS 12.62.400 (c) instead of (a).

That language can be seen on page 1, lines 7-9 of the new CS.

There are conforming changes made to that section referencing pfd statutes.

Renumbered Section 2 now contains the language from old section 4, which deals with breaks or holidays from secondary or postsecondary education.

The next change to CS version S can be found in section 2 on page 3, lines 5-10. The change here is directly to the term found in the A version - "sea engineer". This term is not found in statute and is not a term used in the merchant marine trade.

After much consultation with the Dept of Revenue, Dept. of Law, and expert on merchant mariner training and with our Legal Services, the language you see on page 3 refers to a vocational program that trains students for a career in the US merchant marine and meets the requirements of the US Coast guard.

It is felt that this language is inclusive enough to ensure the original intent is upheld.

The next change is found in Section 3, in paragraph 12 on page 6, lines 11-14. "suitability" was in the original bill. "qualifications" is the term most normally found in statute.

Instead of a deletion and replacement, new language refers to both a person's "qualifications" and "suitability" for administering the permanent fund dividend program under this chapter.

[1:42:06 PM](#)

CHAIR BJORKMAN removed his objection; finding no further objection, [CSSB 85, version S, was adopted.]

[1:42:23 PM](#)

At ease.

[1:42:57 PM](#)

CHAIR BJORKMAN reconvened the meeting and requested a motion.

[1:43:16 PM](#)

At ease.

[1:43:33 PM](#)

CHAIR BJORKMAN reconvened the meeting and requested a motion.

[1:43:39 PM](#)

SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON moved to report CSSB 85, work order 33-GS1337\S, from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s).

CHAIR BJORKMAN found no objection and CSSB 85(L&C), version S, was reported from the Senate Labor and Commerce Standing Committee.

[1:43:57 PM](#)

At ease.

CONFIRMATION HEARINGS

[1:44:14 PM](#)

CHAIR BJORKMAN reconvened the meeting and took up the governor's appointees to boards and commissions referred to the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee. The committee members have reviewed the applications and resumes from the appointees and have expressed no concerns or desire to speak to any of the appointees. He asked for a motion to refer the names of the appointees to a joint session of the full legislature for confirmation.

SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON moved to advance the names of the governor's appointees that were referred to the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee to the full legislature for consideration. Signing the reports in no way reflects individual members' intention to vote for or against the appointees; the nominations are merely forwarded to the full legislature for confirmation or rejection.

CHAIR BJORKMAN objected for purposes of discussion. He invited Mr. Jackson to walk through the appointees.

[1:46:08 PM](#)

KONRAD JACKSON, Staff, Senator Jesse Bjorkman, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, stated that none of the committee members had questions or concerns about the qualifications that they wished to discuss with the appointees. He read each appointee's name with their corresponding board or commission into the record.

[1:49:45 PM](#)

Alaska Labor Relations Agency
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Alaska Workers' Compensation Board

John Corbett - Fairbanks
Jonathon Dartt - Fairbanks
Anthony Ladd - Anchorage
Lake Williams - Fairbanks
Steven Heidemann - Anchorage
Marc Stemp - Anchorage

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Dana Walukiewicz - Anchorage
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Valerie Phelps - Anchorage
Bryan Murphy - Anchorage

[1:49:45 PM](#)

CHAIR BJORKMAN opened public testimony on the governor's appointees. Finding no testifiers, he closed public testimony. He removed his objection to advancing the appointees. Finding no further objection, the names were advanced to a joint session of the full legislature for consideration.

[1:50:47 PM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Bjorkman adjourned the Senate Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting at 1:50 p.m.