

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
HOUSE RESOURCES STANDING COMMITTEE**

February 12, 2025

1:02 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Representative Robyn Niayuq Burke, Co-Chair  
Representative Maxine Dibert, Co-Chair (via teleconference)  
Representative Carolyn Hall  
Representative Donna Mears  
Representative Zack Fields  
Representative Dan Saddler  
Representative George Rauscher  
Representative Julie Coulombe  
Representative Bill Elam

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

All members present

**OTHER LEGISLATORS PRESENT**

Representative Rebecca Schwanke

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

PRESENTATION(S): EXECUTIVE ORDER 136~ CREATING THE ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

- HEARD

HOUSE SPECIAL CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1  
Disapproving Executive Order No. 136.

- FAILED TO MOVE OUT OF COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE ORDER 136

Establishing the Department of Agriculture and Transferring  
Functions of the Department of Natural Resources Relating to  
Agriculture to the Department of Agriculture

- CONSIDERED

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: HSCR 1

SHORT TITLE: DISAPPROVE EO 136

SPONSOR(s): RULES

01/27/25	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/27/25	(H)	RES, FIN
02/12/25	(H)	RES AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124

**WITNESS REGISTER**

SENATOR SHELLY HUGHES  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Offered the Alaska Food Strategy Task Force 2023 and 2024 recommendations as part of the Executive Order 136, Creating the Alaska Department of Agriculture presentation.

JOHN BOYLE, Commissioner  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Alaska  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Co-offered a PowerPoint regarding Executive Order 136 during the hearing on HSCR 1 and EO 136.

BRENT GOODRUM, Deputy Commissioner  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Alaska  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Co-offered a PowerPoint regarding Executive Order 136 during the hearing on HSCR 1 and EO 136.

RENA MILLER, Special Assistant to the Commissioner  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Presented a sectional analysis of Executive Order 136 during the hearing on HSCR 1 and EO 136.

CALVIN ZUELOW, Staff  
Representative Robyn Niayuq Burke  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Read HSCR 1 into the record during the hearing on HSCR 1 and EO 136.

ROBBI MIXON, Executive Director  
Alaska Food Policy Council  
Homer, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Spoke in support of establishing the Alaska Department of Agriculture during the hearing on HSCR 1 and EO 136.

SCOT MUGRAGE, President  
Alaska Farm Bureau  
Delta Junction, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Spoke in support of establishing the Alaska Department of Agriculture during the hearing on HSCR 1 and EO 136.

BETH VAN SANDT, Representing Self  
Homer, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Spoke in support of establishing the Alaska Department of Agriculture during the hearing on HSCR 1 and EO 136.

INGA PETERSON, President  
Alaska Future Farmers of America  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Spoke in support of establishing the Alaska Department of Agriculture during the hearing on HSCR 1 and EO 136.

#### **ACTION NARRATIVE**

[1:02:10 PM](#)

**CO-CHAIR ROBYN NIAYUQ BURKE** called the House Resources Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Representatives Coulombe, Rauscher, Saddler, Hall, Mears, Dibert (via teleconference), and Burke were present at the call to order. Representatives Fields and Elam arrived as the meeting was in progress. Other legislator present was Representative Rebecca Schwanke.

#### **PRESENTATION(S): Executive Order 136, Creating the Alaska Department of Agriculture**

[1:03:20 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR BURKE announced that the first order of business would be the Executive Order 136, Creating the Alaska Department of Agriculture presentation.

[1:03:42 PM](#)

SENATOR SHELLY HUGHES, Alaska State Legislature, presented the final report of the Alaska Food Strategy Task Force assigned to address the Alaska food security situation, dated 2024. The report also included the 2023 report from the task force [hard copies included in the committee packet]. The task force was created by House Bill 298 of the Thirty-Third Alaska State Legislature and has 36 members including four legislators. The intent was to craft recommendations with actionable steps and timelines for the responsible entities to follow. Committee members were referred to the color-coded "cheat sheet" which outlined the recommendations from the two reports [hard copy included in the committee packet]. The first recommendation was to establish an Alaska Department of Agriculture which underpins everything that follows on the list. The items in yellow represent items under consideration including funding for Arctic-specific agricultural research. The items in red had previously been completed. The items in green were underway.

SENATOR HUGHES drew specific attention to number 28 which was a procurement bill for school foods and number 32 which concerned implementing local responsibility for food independence and food security. She discussed the Food Security Workshop that would take place in Palmer. She described the importance of having a commissioner of agriculture at the cabinet table to support agriculture.

**HSCR 1-DISAPPROVE EO 136**  
**Executive Order 136**

[1:10:11 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR BURKE announced that the next order of business would be HOUSE SPECIAL CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1, Disapproving Executive Order No. 136.

[1:10:32 PM](#)

JOHN BOYLE, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources, State of Alaska, co-offered a PowerPoint regarding Executive Order 136 (EO 136) which would establish the Alaska Department of Agriculture. [hard copy included in the committee packet] He provided the committee with context, referring to 2020, early in the Covid 19 pandemic, which exposed the tenuousness of the supply chain with closed ports and the Canadian border closed. For the Governor, it underscored how important food security was for the state, raising the question of how Alaskans could become more self-sufficient and more food secure.

COMMISSIONER BOYLE pointed out that a focus on agriculture would create new opportunities for Alaskans interested in becoming farmers and producing food. He described the history of farming in Alaska when the state produced approximately 50 percent of the food consumed and described the farming communities created during the Great Depression. He emphasized the importance of a cabinet level position who could work with agriculture-related groups such as the University of Alaska, soil conservation districts, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Alaska Farm Bureau. He provided examples of when the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) helped individuals find markets for Alaska milk and agriculture products which resulted in expanded operations, more economy of scale, and more competitive products. He pointed out that local products are fresher and have a longer shelf life. He reiterated his support for an Alaska Department of Agriculture with a commissioner who can lead initiatives, be a spokesperson, inform policy makers, increase profitability, contribute to the state's economic health, and leave future Alaskans with a rich agricultural heritage.

[1:23:17 PM](#)

BRENT GOODRUM, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources, State of Alaska, co-offered a PowerPoint regarding Executive Order 136, titled "Executive Order 136 Establishing the Department of Agriculture" [hard copy included in the committee packet]. He showed slide 2, titled "Alaska Agriculture: Status Report," which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

- Robust Alaska agriculture is a long-held vision
- Hardy Alaskans are farming
- 2022 national census: 1,173 Alaska farms and ranches produced about \$39.7 million in crop value and \$51.2 million in animal production
- So much more potential - with dedicated, focused, expert support
- Why grow agriculture?
- Greater food security and independence for Alaskans
- Further develop an important economic sector (jobs, value chain benefits)

MR. GOODRUM summarized Alaska's agriculture history, pointing out the symbol of agriculture featured on the Alaska state seal. He explained that the Department of Agriculture created in 1945

by the territorial government became a division of DNR at the time of statehood. He discussed the statistics from the 2022 USDA National Agricultural Statistical Service and described the potential for additional growth. He pointed out that Alaska's size and diversity, abundant lands, clean water, and an expanding growing season could meet the need for greater food security and independence, counteract supply line vulnerabilities, and strengthen an important economic sector.

[1:25:22 PM](#)

MR. GOODRUM showed slide 3, titled "Executive Order 136," which read as follows[original punctuation provided]:

Establishes the Alaska Department of Agriculture

- Transitions in full the Division of Agriculture from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to the new department
- Statutory responsibilities, functions, do not change
- Provides transitional measures for seamless reorganization
- Effective July 1, 2025

MR. GOODRUM moved to slide 4, titled "Vision," which read as follows:

- Governor's overarching goal: increase focus on agriculture and food security with a dedicated department and leadership
- Focus will help develop a robust, durable state agricultural policy, including a strategic plan with an implementation roadmap
- Continuation of the Governor's budget and legislative policy actions following the COVID-19 pandemic to enhance food security in Alaska
- Aligns with top recommendations of task forces and stakeholders
- New department is first step to provide solid foundation for future growth

MR. GOODRUM reiterated Governor Dunleavy's focus on agriculture and food security, emphasizing that a solely dedicated department and leadership team would help develop a strategic plan and drive statewide agricultural policies. He emphasized the importance of a cabinet level seat to advocate for agricultural solutions for Alaska. He showed slide 5, titled

"Improved results for Alaskans," which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

- Robust, durable agriculture policy with implementation plan
- Stronger strategic alignment with stakeholder groups, Alaska agriculture entities
- More consistent, proactive interaction with federal partners
- Cabinet-level agriculture advocacy
- Opportunity for greater legislative focus and attention

[1:28:56 PM](#)

MR. GOODRUM briefly touched upon the diversity of DNR'S programs, functions, and economics, including the Division of Agriculture. He showed slide 6, titled "Today's Department of Natural Resources," which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

- 1,054 employees (767 PFT, 215 PPT, 72 NP) across seven divisions, two offices
- Led by commissioner supported by two deputies
- Statewide offices, programs and sites
- FY2025 Management Plan budget (all funds): \$173,399.3
- DNR returns \$21 to the state treasury for every UGF dollar appropriated

PFT: Permanent full-time

NP: Non-permanent

PPT: Permanent part-time

UGF: Unrestricted general fund

MR. GOODRUM emphasized the final point on slide 6, explaining that the money DNR returns to the Alaska treasury amounts to \$1.8 billion. He moved to slides 7 and 8, which showed a breakdown of the division, including funding, employees, projects, functions, and areas of responsibility. Both slides were titled "Today's Division of Agriculture," and read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

Division Director

- Programs separated into Agriculture Development and Plant Materials Center sections
- Employees: 37 total (32 PFT and 5 PPT)

- FY2025 Management Plan: \$7,176.2 all funds
- Headquarters in Palmer
  
- Inspections, certifications
- Farm, production loans through Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund
- Alaska Grown and other promotion (state, national, international)
- Agricultural land sales / leases support
- Administers federal grants to Alaskans
- Future Farmers of America
- Seed storage and production, varietal trials
- Seed cleaning services rendered
- Revegetation and erosion control consulting
- Industrial hemp regulation
- Invasive plant, pest management

MR. GOODRUM next showed slide 9, titled "Tomorrow's Department of Agriculture," which showed a proposed organization chart of the proposed department. The slide also showed a break-down of employees and funding and read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

- Responsible leadership, organizational structures
- Primed for build-out over time with increased programming, responsibilities
- Employees: 50 total (45 PFT and 5 PPT)
- FY2026 increment: \$2,734.4 UGF
- Headquarters in Palmer

MR. GOODRUM moved to slide 10, titled "Costs - New Positions," which outlined department positions and salaries. Slide 11 was titled "Costs Comparison" and showed a break-down of the FY 25 and FY 26 budgets as well as a comparison of DNR/Division of Agriculture and Department of Agriculture costs. He pointed out that the budget not only would increase food security and grow the agriculture sector but would also grow the production value of Alaska agriculture.

MR. GOODRUM moved to slide 12, titled "Timeline," and slide 13, titled "Transition work," which summarized the steps to create the Alaska Department of Agriculture using EO 136, which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

- Transition work includes:
- Stakeholder engagement / education
  - Employee town hall

- Prepare and submit documents for position reclassifications
- Post, hire and train new positions
- Governor appoints new commissioner
- Public-facing website updated and launched
- Update signage, public-facing access points on buildings
- Work with the Division of Finance on changes to Integrated Resource Information System (IRIS)
- Information Technology transitions
- Plan inter-departmental coordination with DNR / lands
- July 1, 2025 - Department of Agriculture is legal operating entity

[1:35:29 PM](#)

RENA MILLER, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, presented a sectional analysis of Executive Order 136. She explained that most of the changes were conforming changes such as revising wording to say "department" rather than "division" or changing the words "natural resources" to "agriculture." She discussed the following changes outlined on slide 14, titled "Executive Order 136 - Sectional Analysis," which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

Section 1, the Governor finds that it is in the best interests of efficient administration to establish this the Department of Agriculture and to transfer the functions of DNR as they relate to agriculture to the new department.

Sections 2 through 21 goes into Title 3, regarding different food responsibilities of the state which separates and allocates responsibility to DNR or the Department of Environment Conservation (DEC). Examples of revisions in this section would include changing the "Commissioner of Natural Resources" to "Commissioner of Agriculture."

Section 22 is an amendment to Title 9.

Section 23 relates to the collection of fees under Title 37.

Section 24 through 29 reflects amendments to Title 38 relating to public lands. These changes update

consultations, so the commissioner of natural resources would consult with the commissioner of agriculture on behalf of the board of agriculture and conservation.

Section 30 through 36 apply to Title 38 as well as referring to statutes related to the Natural Resource Conservation and Development Board which is being renamed the Soil and Water Conservation and Development Board to better reflect its responsibilities under statute.

Sections 37 through 40 reflect amendments to Title 44, including the addition of the Department of Agriculture to the offices and departments of the state government and adds the duties of the Department of Agriculture.

Section 41 repeals three statutes relating to the Division of Agriculture within DNR.

Section 42 concerns revisor's instructions for changing catchlines and titles.

Section 43 applies to transitional provisions concerning non-statutory matters which would be carried forward to the new Department.

Section 44 sets an effective date.

[1:42:24 PM](#)

MS. MILLER responded to a question from Representative Saddler by acknowledging an EO does not need a fiscal note, but specified there is a statement of cost included with the EO. She asked the committee to direct questions regarding cost to Mr. Goodrum.

[1:43:03 PM](#)

MR. GOODRUM, in response to Representative Saddler's question concerning costs, growth, and responsibilities, stated that the EO is an important first step to establishing a Department of Agriculture in Alaska. He characterized it as a minimalist but appropriate step to build upon. He drew the committee's attention to the costs outlined on slides 9 and 10, relating to the commissioner's office and support system.

[1:45:18 PM](#)

COMMISSIONER BOYLE addressed a question from Representative Elam regarding whether DNR had reached out to boroughs or municipalities, describing the process DNR used to set up the proposed department. He pointed out a new department would be geared to offer assistance to small family farms as well as people who would like to have backyard chickens, goats, raised bed gardens, or greenhouses. He explained that having a department focused on agriculture is an asset to small farmers in Alaska as well as large growers. Achieving economies of scale would come from a greater involvement in agriculture.

[1:49:20 PM](#)

COMMISSIONER BOYLE responded to a question from Representative Mears regarding whether other divisions would move to the new department by explaining the new commissioner would determine the most efficacious way to consolidate functions. Some things would overlap well, but certain tasks would be better served in other departments.

[1:52:53 PM](#)

MR. GOODRUM responded to questions from Representative Coulombe regarding two divisions which would not be incorporated in the Department of Agriculture. He explained that the state veterinarian has an expansive list of responsibilities which overlap departments. Similarly, there are several overlapping programs that have federal primacy which would require further evaluation.

[1:54:47 PM](#)

COMMISSIONER BOYLE added context to the question regarding the state veterinarian, explaining the importance of taking a measured approach, so the process would not be frontloaded with lots of costs.

[1:56:11 PM](#)

COMMISSIONER BOYLE responded to a question from Representative Fields by explaining that mariculture functions would continue to be part of DNR within the Division of Mining, Land, and Waters because there is a nexus between land leasing and land management authorities. Regarding carbon sequestration, carbon has impacts on state leasing and land management, and DNR is in charge of state land leasing.

[1:58:11 PM](#)

COMMISSIONER BOYLE addressed a question from Representative Saddler regarding whether an agriculture department would be more efficient than the current agriculture division. He explained that the efficiency would come from having a cabinet level position which can advocate specifically for agriculture. There are limitations regarding how much influence a division director can have because the direction of the department and the budgeting priorities are framed by the commissioner and then framed by the governor. If the commissioner is more interested in rocks than agriculture, it influences the scope of the entire department. On the other hand, a commissioner of agriculture could engage in local, state, and federal programs which would result in more progress in the agricultural sector and would have a positive impact on food security.

COMMISSIONER BOYLE responded to a question from Representative Saddler as to whether a similar point could be made for oil and gas by explaining that Alaska doesn't have trouble attracting investment in oil and gas. The oil and gas division deals with permitting, regulating, administering leases, and managing land. There is not a need to attract more interest in oil and gas investment. This contrasts with agriculture in Alaska where changes in climate, lengthening growing seasons, and increased interest in indoor vertical gardens provide opportunities for investment. A commissioner dedicated to the agricultural sector is in a better position to work with entities interested in Alaska investment potential.

[2:04:50 PM](#)

COMMISSIONER BOYLE responded to a question from Representative Hall regarding the Cooperative Extension Service by explaining it is an outlet for individual farmers, prospective farmers, or hobbyists to get tips or information regarding services; what grows well in certain areas; and what the differences in climate mean to farming. A commissioner of agriculture would strengthen the ties between the University of Alaska, soil conservation districts, the experimental farms, and government agencies.

[2:07:41 PM](#)

COMMISSIONER BOYLE responded to Representative Mear's question regarding keeping the Division of Forestry in DNR instead of moving it to the Department of Agriculture. He explained that forestry and fire management work together and that fire

management is not a good fit for agriculture. In addition, DNR's core mission is to focus on natural resources, so it makes more sense to keep forestry in DNR.

[2:10:19 PM](#)

COMMISSIONER BOYLE, in response to a question from Representative Rauscher, explained that kelp farming would be considered part of mariculture and would currently stay in DNR.

[2:11:30 PM](#)

COMMISSIONER BOYLE responded to questions from Representative Saddler and Co-Chair Burke regarding the potential of a department of agriculture bringing more income into the state. He explained that over time the department of agriculture could attract more federal agriculture money to the state. The USDA funding has not kept track of Alaska the way it has with other states and has cut USDA programs in part because there was not a dedicated commissioner working with Washington D.C. to advocate for Alaska's interests. Additionally, a dedicated department would be more sensitive to the interests of specific Alaska stakeholders.

[2:15:12 PM](#)

COMMISSIONER BOYLE responded to several questions from Representative Hall regarding personnel. He explained that the division of agriculture would use the Department of Administration to coordinate employment and that hiring challenges were not anticipated due to the level of interest in the new department. Additionally, many of the positions would simply be transferred from the existing division to the new department.

[2:19:25 PM](#)

MR. GOODRUM responded to a question from Representative Coulombe by explaining that the Executive Order can't be amended, and funding issues for the proposed department would be part of the legislature's budgetary process.

[2:20:31 PM](#)

CALVIN ZUELOW, Staff, Representative Robyn Niayuq Burke, Alaska State Legislature, read HOUSE SPECIAL CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1 Disapproving Executive Order No. 136 into the record.

[2:21:40 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR BURKE opened public testimony on HSCR 1 and EO 136.

[2:22:01 PM](#)

ROBBI MIXON, Executive Director, Alaska Food Policy Council, spoke in support of establishing the Alaska Department of Agriculture. She emphasized that Alaska is only one of two states in the United States without an agriculture department. She said having an agriculture department would increase food security, support local farmers, boost economic growth, and result in affordable local food. It would enable expanded research in Arctic agriculture, enhance disaster preparedness, and help meet the needs of people living off the road system. She responded to a question from Representative Fields regarding balancing a lower permanent fund dividend with creating a new department by explaining that she personally felt it was a good investment.

[2:26:28 PM](#)

SCOT MUGRAGE, President, Alaska Farm Bureau, spoke in support of establishing the Alaska Department of Agriculture. He explained that he raised beef cattle as well as producing most of the feed to sustain his herds. He listed his reasons for supporting the new department as achieving sustainable food security; expanding farm production; attracting new farmers; reducing dependence on imported food; developing diverse climate-suited crops; creating a more balanced trade environment; and reducing reliance on oil and gas for state funding. He responded to a question from Representative Fields regarding balancing a lower permanent fund dividend with creating a new department by positing that the lower cost of food would more than make up for the lower dividend.

[2:30:39 PM](#)

MR. MUGRAGE responded to a question from Representative Coulombe regarding the cost of fuel by explaining that as one of the largest agriculture producers in Alaska, his use of fuel is extensive. He explained how a department of agriculture would help cut costs. He pointed out that Alaska quit making investments both in three-phase power and in research to increase production of small grains. However, with the addition

of geneticists and climate change technologies, Alaska farmers can catch up with other states.

[2:34:51 PM](#)

BETH VAN SANDT, Representing Self, spoke in support of establishing the Alaska Department of Agriculture. She described her experience as a peony farmer in Homer and how she has seen growth in the cut flower industry in Alaska. An agricultural department would be able to research Alaska-specific issues regarding pests, minerals, viruses, climate, and soils as well as assist in developing agricultural tourism. She explained that an agriculture department could assist in establishing reliable transportation of fresh perishable products not just peonies.

[2:42:02 PM](#)

INGA PETERSON, President, Alaska Future Farmers of America, spoke in support of establishing the Alaska Department of Agriculture. As a member of the Future Farmers of America (FFA), she is part of a young workforce which is looking for opportunities in agriculture and is interested in contributing to their communities. She has worked on a peony farm and would like to own her own peony farm as well as becoming an agriculture educator in Alaska. A Department of Agriculture would support FFA's goals as well as contribute to food security and sustainability.

MS. PETERSON responded to questions from Representative Saddler and Representative Coulombe by explaining that she became involved in FFA when she was in 9th grade. The organization has expanded beyond agriculture and now also teaches life skills such as welding, public speaking, soil analysis, and machine repair.

[2:48:50 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR BURKE, after ascertaining that there was no one else who wished to testify, closed public testimony on HSCR 1 and EO 136.

[2:49:01 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR BURKE said she would entertain a motion to move Executive Order 136 and House Special Concurrent Resolution No. 1 from committee.

REPRESENTATIVE MEARS moved to report EO 1 and HSCR 1 out of committee.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER objected. He explained he wanted to clarify that the committee just has to acknowledge that EO 136 was heard by the committee. "Our approval doesn't say necessarily that we support it or approve it. But having HSCR 1 as well, which is kind of the antithesis, we're also just voting to pass it through. We're not saying yes or no. Just to clarify what the effect of the vote is."

CO-CHAIR BURKE stated that "just for clarification, we spoke with legislative legal, and their request is that they go together, concurrently, because they were co-related."

[2:49:46 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 2:49 p.m. to 3:01 p.m.

[3:01:18 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MEARS withdrew her motion and asked to restate the motion.

REPRESENTATIVE MEARS moved to report Executive Order 136 from committee. There being no objection, EO 136 was reported out of committee.

REPRESENTATIVE MEARS moved to report HSCR 1 out of committee.

REPRESENTATIVE RAUSCHER objected.

CO-CHAIR BURKE asked if Representative Rauscher would like to speak to his objection.

REPRESENTATIVE RAUSCHER said "no."

CO-CHAIR BURKE asked whether there was any discussion on the objection and asked Representative Rauscher whether he maintained his objection.

REPRESENTATIVE RAUSCHER said "yes."

REPRESENTATIVE COULOMBE said she wanted to clarify what was being voted on.

CO-CHAIR BURKE clarified that it was the resolution [HSCR 1].

REPRESENTATIVE COULOMBE reiterated that the resolution rejects the EO, so a "yes" vote means a vote to reject the EO, and a "no" vote means "you don't want to reject the EO. It's a double negative."

REPRESENTATIVE RAUSCHER pointed out that both can be moved forward and then be decided in another committee how both of them will be handled.

REPRESENTATIVE COULOMBE clarified what a yes vote means. The resolution says the EO is rejected.

CO-CHAIR BURKE reiterated that it disapproves EO 136.

REPRESENTATIVE COULOMBE further clarified that so if she votes "yes," that means, "Yes, I would like to disapprove the EO, and 'no' means I don't want to disapprove. A 'yes' means I want to disapprove. Correct?"

CO-CHAIR BURKE said that was her understanding.

REPRESENTATIVE MEARS offered her understanding that they were just moving it from committee and that they were not actually voting on the resolution, so it's moving forward to the next committee of referral.

REPRESENTATIVE RAUSCHER pointed out that the committee was voting on whether or not to move the resolution from committee.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER specified, for the public, that the question they were dealing with, as follows:

What was actually the effect of whatever vote they take, whether the 'yes' is 'no' but also whether this is actually formally taking a position on this resolution or simply to pass it through. My understanding, and what will motivate my vote, is to know this is the final decision as stated by the entire body, not just this committee. I understand this vote is to move it through committee, not to express my support or opposition to it, but simply to advance it through the committee for a final decision at a later place in the process. That's my understanding.

CO-CHAIR BURKE said that was her understanding and that was the recommendation the committee received from Legislative Legal Services to move it along, so it moves with the executive order.

REPRESENTATIVE COULOMBE requested that the motion be repeated before the vote.

REPRESENTATIVE MEARS explained that the motion was to move HSCR 1 from committee.

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Hall, Mears, and Burke voted in favor of moving HSCR 1 from committee. Representatives Elam, Coulombe, Rauscher, and Saddler voted against moving it from committee. Therefore, HSCR 1 failed to move from the House Resources Standing Committee by a vote of 3-4.

[3:06:44 PM](#)

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the committee, the House Resources Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.