

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE

March 20, 2025

1:11 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Ashley Carrick, Co-Chair
Representative Ted Eischeid, Co-Chair
Representative Genevieve Mina
Representative Louise Stutes
Representative Kevin McCabe
Representative Cathy Tilton
Representative Elexie Moore

MEMBERS ABSENT

All members present

OTHER LEGISLATORS PRESENT

Representative Ky Holland

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 47 (RES)

"An Act relating to Chugach State Park; and providing for an effective date."

- HEARD & HELD

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: SB 47

SHORT TITLE: CHUGACH STATE PARK EASEMENTS

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(s) GIESSEL

| | | |
|----------|-----|---------------------------------|
| 01/17/25 | (S) | PREFILE RELEASED 1/17/25 |
| 01/22/25 | (S) | READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS |
| 01/22/25 | (S) | TRA, RES |
| 02/04/25 | (S) | TRA AT 1:30 PM BUTROVICH 205 |
| 02/04/25 | (S) | Heard & Held |
| 02/04/25 | (S) | MINUTE (TRA) |
| 02/11/25 | (S) | TRA AT 1:30 PM BUTROVICH 205 |
| 02/11/25 | (S) | Moved SB 47 Out of Committee |
| 02/11/25 | (S) | MINUTE (TRA) |
| 02/14/25 | (S) | TRA RPT 2DP 1DNP 1NR |

02/14/25 (S) DP: BJORKMAN, KIEHL
02/14/25 (S) DNP: SHOWER
02/14/25 (S) NR: TOBIN
02/17/25 (S) RES AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
02/17/25 (S) Heard & Held
02/17/25 (S) MINUTE (RES)
02/26/25 (S) RES AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
02/26/25 (S) Moved CSSB 47 (RES) Out of Committee
02/26/25 (S) MINUTE (RES)
02/28/25 (S) RES RPT CS 6DP 1NR SAME TITLE
02/28/25 (S) DP: GIESSEL, HUGHES, DUNBAR, CLAMAN,
MYERS, WIELECHOWSKI
02/28/25 (S) NR: KAWASAKI
03/10/25 (S) TRANSMITTED TO (H)
03/10/25 (S) VERSION: CSSB 47 (RES)
03/11/25 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
03/11/25 (H) TRA, RES
03/20/25 (H) TRA AT 1:00 PM BARNES 124

WITNESS REGISTER

SENATOR CATHY GIESSEL
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: As prime sponsor, presented CSSB 47 (RES).

PAIGE BROWN, Staff
Senator Cathy Giessel
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: On behalf of Senator Giessel, sponsor, answered questions on CSSB 47 (RES).

RICKY GEASE, Director
Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation
Department of Natural Resources
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions on CSSB 47 (RES).

ACTION NARRATIVE

[1:11:22 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR TED EISCHEID called the House Transportation Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:11 p.m. Representatives Mina, Stutes, Carrick, and Eischeid were present at the call to order.

Representatives McCabe, Moore, and Tilton arrived as the meeting was in progress.

SB 47-CHUGACH STATE PARK EASEMENTS

[1:12:27 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR EISCHEID announced that the only order of business would be CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 47(RES) "An Act relating to Chugach State Park; and providing for an effective date."

[1:13:20 PM](#)

SENATOR CATHY GIESSEL, Alaska State Legislature, as prime sponsor, presented CSSB 47(RES) via a PowerPoint presentation, titled "Chugach State Park Easements" [hard copy included in committee packet]. On slide 2, she stated that Chugach State Park has 1.5 million visitors per year. Moving to slide 5, she emphasized that the park's fee station brings in nearly \$600,000 in revenue per year, with \$117,000 coming from the Glen Alps Flattop access point. She displayed slide 6 and explained that on the other side of the Glen Alps Flattop is the Rabbit Lake trailhead, which is accessed by Canyon Road. She stated that the proposed legislation would address the unmaintained section of road contained in state property, depicted in green. She asserted that, because of the difficulty, the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has not maintained the road in Chugach State Park despite being required to by statute. She explained that the Municipality of Anchorage is willing to take on the maintenance responsibility and to make minor road improvements. She added that the Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation has a grant to enlarge the parking lot needed because of the high volume of traffic.

[1:19:19 PM](#)

PAIGE BROWN, Staff, Senator Cathy Giessel, Alaska State Legislature, on behalf of Senator Giessel, prime sponsor of CSSB 47(RES), in response to questions from Representative Carrick, clarified that none of the \$4 million that the Municipality of Anchorage bonded would be eligible to be spent on Canyon Road in state land until the proposed legislation is passed. She affirmed that the \$4 million currently is planned to be spent on improvements on municipality land.

SENATOR GIESSEL clarified that the road inside the state land near the Rabbit Lake Trailhead also needs improvement, but it is solely the responsibility of DOT&PF.

[1:21:44 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE asked for clarification on the language on page 2, line 26 of the proposed legislation.

SENATOR GIESSEL replied that similar language is already in statute and additionally repeated in Section 2, subsection (c) of the bill.

[1:23:25 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE asked if there are any other state parks where DOT&PF is responsible for maintenance of public roads.

[1:24:00 PM](#)

RICKY GEASE, Director, Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation, Department of Natural Resources, in response to a question from Representative McCabe, provided his understanding that DOT&PF is responsible for the roads in Chugach State Park and the highway through Denali National Park and Preserve. He stated he would provide the committee with a comprehensive list of roads in state parks that DOT&PF is responsible for.

[1:26:00 PM](#)

SENATOR GIESSEL referred to page 1, line 7 through line 13 of the bill and clarified that existing statute specifically mentions Chugach State Park and the bill would move the language to a different section.

[CSSB 47(RES) was held over.]

[1:28:02 PM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Transportation Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.