

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE

May 6, 2025

2:39 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Jesse Bjorkman, Chair
Senator Löki Tobin, Vice Chair
Senator Jesse Kiehl

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Bert Stedman
Senator Mike Shower

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HOUSE BILL NO. 31

"An Act relating to the registration of commercial vessels; and relating to the derelict vessel prevention program fund."

- MOVED HB 31 OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HB 31

SHORT TITLE: VESSELS: REGISTRATION/DERELICT FUND

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) STUTES

01/22/25	(H)	PREFILE RELEASED 1/10/25
01/22/25	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/22/25	(H)	FSH, FIN
02/06/25	(H)	FSH AT 11:00 AM GRUENBERG 120
02/06/25	(H)	Heard & Held
02/06/25	(H)	MINUTE(FSH)
02/11/25	(H)	FSH AT 10:00 AM GRUENBERG 120
02/11/25	(H)	Moved HB 31 Out of Committee
02/11/25	(H)	MINUTE(FSH)
02/12/25	(H)	FSH RPT 7DP
02/12/25	(H)	DP: VANCE, KOPP, EDGMON, HIMSCHOOT, ELAM, MCCABE, STUTES
03/11/25	(H)	FIN AT 1:30 PM ADAMS 519
03/11/25	(H)	Scheduled but Not Heard
03/12/25	(H)	FIN AT 1:30 PM ADAMS 519
03/12/25	(H)	Moved HB 31 Out of Committee

03/12/25	(H)	MINUTE (FIN)
03/14/25	(H)	FIN RPT 8DP 3NR
03/14/25	(H)	DP: BYNUM, HANNAN, TOMASZEWSKI, GALVIN, JIMMIE, FOSTER, JOSEPHSON, SCHRAGE
03/14/25	(H)	NR: JOHNSON, ALLARD, STAPP
04/11/25	(H)	TRANSMITTED TO (S)
04/11/25	(H)	VERSION: HB 31
04/14/25	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
04/14/25	(S)	TRA, FIN
04/24/25	(S)	TRA AT 1:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
04/24/25	(S)	Heard & Held
04/24/25	(S)	MINUTE (TRA)
05/06/25	(S)	TRA AT 1:30 PM BUTROVICH 205

WITNESS REGISTER

REPRESENTATIVE LOUISE STUTES, District 5
 Alaska State Legislature
 Juneau, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Sponsor of HB 31.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[2:39:48 PM](#)

CHAIR BJORKMAN called the Senate Transportation Standing Committee meeting to order at 2:39 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Kiehl, Tobin, and Chair Bjorkman.

HB 31-VESSELS: REGISTRATION/DERELICT FUND

[2:40:28 PM](#)

CHAIR BJORKMAN announced the consideration of HOUSE BILL NO. 31 "An Act relating to the registration of commercial vessels; and relating to the derelict vessel prevention program fund."

[2:41:05 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE LOUISE STUTES, District 5, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, provided a brief overview of HB 31. She noted that a version of this legislation passed both bodies of the legislature in 2024; however, it passed after midnight on the final night of the session, which raised constitutional concerns. That legislation was subsequently vetoed.

REPRESENTATIVE STUTES said HB 31 would remove duplicative registration requirements created by the passage of the derelict vessel bill of 2018. Specifically, HB 31 would remove the requirement for U.S. Coast Guard documented vessels with current

commercial fishery entry commission licenses to register every three years with the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). She explained that, prior to the passage of Senate Bill 92 in 2018, documented vessels were exempt from DMV registration; however, that exemption was repealed in Senate Bill 92. As a result, larger vessels fell under the DMV's purview. The rationale behind Senate Bill 92 was to provide the state and local municipalities with a state vessel database. She stated that the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) database had been overlooked. She explained that vessel licensure with the CFEC requires all the necessary annual renewal information in a publicly accessible, state-maintained database. HB 31 also repeals the derelict vessel prevention program fund created in Senate Bill 92 and transfers the balance of the fund to the general fund.

[2:43:19 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE STUTES concluded the overview, emphasizing that HB 31 is a fiscally responsible piece of legislation that transfers \$1.67 million from the derelict vessel fund to the general coffers. She thanked the Senate Transportation Standing Committee for hearing HB 31.

[2:44:43 PM](#)

CHAIR BJORKMAN opened public testimony on HB 31; finding none, he closed public testimony.

[2:45:17 PM](#)

CHAIR BJORKMAN solicited the will of the committee.

[2:45:19 PM](#)

SENATOR TOBIN moved to report HB 31, work order 34-LS0326\A, from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal notes.

[2:45:38 PM](#)

CHAIR BJORKMAN found no objection and HB 31 was reported from the Senate Transportation Standing Committee.

[2:46:18 PM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Bjorkman adjourned the Senate Transportation Standing Committee meeting at 2:46 p.m.