

HB-797

"An Act directing the Department of Environmental Conservation to conduct a study of the advisability of requiring low water sanitary waste disposal systems in all new construction in the state; and providing for an effective date."

COMMITTEE REPORT

HOUSE

2/17/76

FINANCE

Mr. Speaker:

Date 3-24-76

The Committee on COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS has had HB 797

under consideration. A Majority of the members of the Committee

recommends it DO PASS

recommends it DO NOT PASS

recommends it DO PASS WITH ATTACHED AMENDMENT(S)

recommends it BE REPLACED WITH CS FOR HB 797 AND THAT

CS FOR HB 797 DO PASS

"and" recommends it BE REFERRED TO THE _____ COMMITTEE

reports it back WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

"other"

Members signing the Majority report:

Members NOT concurring in the Majority report:

_____ recommends:
_____ recommends:
_____ recommends:
_____ recommends:
_____ recommends:

_____ Chairman

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE:

By: House Community and
Regional Affairs Comm. H-11

To: S HOUSE BILL No. 797

SENATE BILL No.

PAGE: 1

LINE:

Lines 17, 18: ~~DELETE~~ "arctic and subarctic"
INSERT "Alaskan"

Line 21: DELETE "arctic and subarctic"
INSERT "Alaska"

Line 22: DELETE "arctic and subarctic"
INSERT "Alaska"

Lines 16 and 20: ~~Change~~ change section from "(1)" to "(2)"
change subsection "(2)" to "(1)"

[The rest of the amendment is to amend the
order of two objectives (1) and (2).]

HOUSE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

March 29, 1976

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 am by Chairman Cotten for discussion of HB's 797, 798, 725 and 816. Present were:

Rep. Cotten
Rep. Freeman
Rep. Rudd
Rep. Ostrosky
Rep. Hackney
Rep. Davis

Rep. Urion
Alan Latham, Legislative Affairs
Jerry Sargeant, Dept. Environ. Conserv.
Jerry ~~Rudd~~, Dept. of ~~C & R A~~ *Environ. Conservation*
Barbara Englert Thomas, Staff
Vicci Hansen, Staff

0014 Rep. Cotten said that last weekend he and Rep. Rudd had gone to Anchorage and he had a talk with a man named David Hickock from the Alaska Environmental Information and Data Center. Mr. Hickock suggested that he could use the contract and could put to use \$75,000.00. He suggested \$50,000.00 for people to gather the research and the remaining \$25,000.00 to be used for publication and for holding a conference in Anchorage. He suggested that the benefits of having people coming in from different countries would be probably pretty slight. He also suggested that there probably wasn't a lot of new information that would be found through a study like this or as the result of any conference.

of Environmental Conservation

00 Cotten asked the Department, if they would care to comment on this.

The Department, Jerry ~~Rudd~~ *Reinold*, said that they really haven't had a chance to discuss this but his reaction was that they would pretty much have to concur with Mr. Hickock's comments. He wonders what they could get for \$75,000.00. He was skeptical about what they get for \$75,000.00.

0111 Cotten said that the point was made that "what do you have right now" - what if they came to the Dept. and said that they would like to see what their options are for putting in a sewer disposal system up in a certain place, is the Department able to provide a work book of different plans that they might want to use or what their alternatives might be. Is the Department able to provide them with some hard data like that right now.

0127 Sargeant said that they have all kinds of data and you can't put everything into a little pamphlet. There was discussion on this.

The committee discussed the cost of hiring an engineer, the interest of people in having a conference.

It was discussed that on HB 797 the CS should be amended to switch 1 and 2, to amend lines 17 and 21 to delete arctic and sub arctic and insert "Alaskan" on line 21 to delete arctic and insert "Alaskan".

CSHB 797 and 798 were passed out.

0921 Cotten brought up HB 816 which was sponsored by Rep. Urion for changing the home rule power to not allow them to charge over 25%.

Rep. Freeman commented on this. He said that he checked any diminution of the home rule authority and come to find out that when you get right down to it the community in question, Homer, is not a home rule city and they are violating the law. Mr. Freeman objected to the bill and said that it wouldn't do anything to accomplish. The committee concurred with Mr. Freeman and the bill was dead.

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HB 725 was briefly discussed and was passed out.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 am.



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March 22, 1976

Representative Sam Cotten
House of Representatives
Pouch V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Sam:

Following up on our conversation at the Westward Hotel and the interests of Lisa Rudd, Kathryn Ostrosky and your other colleagues in House Bills 797 and 798, the following are my thoughts on how your collective objectives might be met.

First, however, may I summarize a few of the observations we discussed.

1. The science and technology for Arctic and sub-Arctic water and sewer systems exists and is known;
2. Many problems of waste disposal are directly associated with problems of water supply and may be better addressed together rather than separately;
3. The basic problem is one of transferring known knowledge to those communities or individuals who wish to use it;
4. The choice of a variety of suitable waste and related water supply and transport system technologies is essentially a problem of cost-benefit (or economic) analysis; and
5. Therefore, the economic and political issue becomes one of who will pay, how much, for what.

In order for the legislature to assist in meeting a very real need in this state on this subject the following approach is suggested:

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- a. Synthesize existing knowledge in a handbook type report which simplistically illustrates the kinds of waste and water related technologies, their specific environmental applications, their attributes and weaknesses and costs under alternative situations;
- b. Prepare such a handbook as a background of information for a symposium or conference on Alaska sewage and waste treatment situations and problems;
- c. Use the conference approach to achieve public awareness and to define gaps in knowledge or causes of non-application, as they may exist in:
 - 1) science and technology
 - 2) economics, and
 - 3) legislation*
- d. Cause the conference to report to the legislature its observations on gaps in knowledge and causes of non-application and its specific recommendations for legislative action.

If, as proposed, the Department of Environmental Conservation and the legislature wish to use the services of AEIDC for these purposes I would note that:

1. AEIDC would coordinate its activity with the Institute of Water Resources. The synthesis of knowledge on waste and water related systems would be accomplished by the professional staff of both AEIDC and IWR. AEIDC expertise in communicating knowledge by graphics and mode of presentation would be put together with IWR and AEIDC engineering and environmental science capabilities.

*Note: One prerequisite to legislative recommendations is the availability of a summary of existing laws, regulations and codes. Perhaps this should be furnished by either the Department of Environmental Conservation or the Department of Law.

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The staff and publication costs of a loose leaf handbook of current knowledge in this field for use at the proposed conference is estimated at \$50,000.

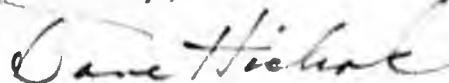
2. If the legislature was to direct the cooperation of State agencies with AEIDC in the planning and organizing of the proposed conference, with such costs borne by the agencies, then the overhead costs of putting on the proposed conference would be about \$15,000. I must note, however, that if the legislature wished attendance of community representatives or individuals at conference expense the amount of dollars for such purpose would have to be in addition to the \$15,000 noted above.
3. Finally, a report to the legislature on conference results and recommendations could be compiled for about \$10,000 using the assumptions of limited copies for legislative and executive branch use only, black and white format and simple binding.
4. In summary, costs for this approach would be:

---preparation of handbook	\$50,000
---holding of conference	15,000
---report to legislature	<u>10,000</u>
TOTAL	\$75,000

Amendatory legislative language to House Bills 797 and 798 for the accomplishment of these approaches is suggested and attached.

Finally, may I just add the thought that regardless of the outcome of this legislation, the staff of AEIDC and IWR and a great many other Alaskans view this subject raised by the proponents of HB 797 and 798 very seriously. The staff of AEIDC is, in any event, at your service in every way possible.

Sincerely,



David M. Hickok
Director

DMH:ec

Enclosure