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JUNEAU ALASKA

Alaska State Legislature

House

HOUSE HESS COMMITTEE MEETING

April 18, 1975

Members Present:

All Present

Chairman Sullivan called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

HB 375 Grace Wilson

Fishermen's Fund bill would provide for treatment and care for the fishermen if injured or becomes ill. 60% of license fees. Extension of benefits, present limit (\$2500) present extension has to go before the council, only meets twice a year; spring and fall.

Hackney What are the conditions of the fund?

Wilson \$577,000, has increased every year, don't anticipate change in stability of the fund by the bill.

Ose Move this bill out with a 'do pass'.

Osterback Seconded

Davis Ask for Mr. Eliason to testify.

Eliason It is the type of insurance that the fisherman pays for with the license fee.

Osterback How long in effect?

Wilson Since 1951

Bill passed the Committee.

HB 399 by Eliason

Read position paper.

Van Houte - Spoke in favor for NEA

Isaacs Read Dept. of Education position paper.

Parr Is the Dept. of Ed. in favor?

Isaac Yes.

James There are money problems here. Presently set up on the dues system, each school paying \$75-\$225.

Ose Move out with individual Recommendation

Beirns Seconded

Chairman Hearing no objection, so ordered.

Page Two
HESS Meeting
4-18-75

HCR 48

Davis Purpose of this bill is so that the young people can get education in their home towns.

Ostrosky The Interim Committee is in favor of this resolution.

Move and ask unanimous consent for 'do pass'

Davis Seconded

Chairman Hearing no objection, so ordered.

HB 343 Rep. Smith gave briefing of bill.

Smith to Eliminate the hospital emergency room as drinking ground. Propose possible amendment to allow protective custody if refused by treatment centers.

Beirne Favor of the bill but opposed to amendment.

Parr In agreement with Rep. Beirne,

Mrs. Smith Drunks very much interfere with the operation of the emergency room

James Alcoholism is- a disease. Opposed to putting them with sick people. Jail needs medical care facilities.

Barkley Chief of Police, Juneau Disagree's with the bill. Question, the word 'shall' All the discussion has been with Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau. That is not where the problem lies. In the bush areas throughout Ak. there just aren't the alcoholic facilities to handle the cases. The bill says that he 'shall' pick him up, but then what is he to do with him then? You have presented us with an impossible situation here. You have not planned for the provisions of the care of the individual.

Parr Couldn't a hospital in the smaller communities handle these people?

Barkley At this time not all of them could.

Parr Would you be in favor of an amendment in Line 10, change shall to may?

Barkley That won't solve the problem. The incapacitated should go to the hospital. It isn't fair to place the responsibility of the medical attention needed on the officer.

Smith Para A, deals with lesser degree of alcoholism.

Beirne Chief Barkley has a very good point. Some cases this has been solved by taking them to the medical facilities, but that is not always possible as the lack of the facilities throughout the entire State. I think we should get the Alcoholism people in here to testify.

Chairman I agree with Rep. Beirne and we will take this bill up at a later date for more testimony from the Alcoholism people.

Meeting Adjourned.