

HB

501

"An Act making a special appropriation to the Department of Health and Social Services, division of corrections, for relocating security prisoners to the Anchorage state jail; and providing for an effective date."

COMMITTEE REPORT

5/13/75

HOUSE

FINANCE

Mr. Speaker:

Date

5/19/75

The Committee on HESS has had HB 501

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 _____ AND THAT

CS FOR _____ DO PASS

"and" recommends it BE REFERRED TO THE _____

COMMITTEE

reports it back WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

"other"

Members signing the Majority report:

Susan Sullivan _____

James Thomas _____

Helga Boies _____

Edgar Ostrom _____

Members NOT concurring in the Majority report:

Blair Han recommends: No recommendation

_____ recommends:

_____ recommends:

_____ recommends:

_____ recommends:

Susan Sullivan Chairman



JUNEAU ALASKA

Alaska State Legislature

House

HESS COMMITTEE MEETING

MAY 19, 1975

Members Present:

Bierne
Osterback
Ostrosky

Parr
Sullivan

Testifying Guests:

Norris Johnson, Juneau Wastewater Operator
Jerry Reinwand, Dep. Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Gonald G. Hansen, Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Don Clocksin, Alaska Legal Services
Bob Cooksey, National Education Association
Alphie Newell, Legislative Staff member

HB 407 Certification of Wastewater Operators

Reinwand: The purpose of this bill is to make certain that once a facility is build, it will be possible to find a competent person to operate it. Our department supports this bill as it is.

Hansen: The bill would set up the requirement that all wastewater operators are certified. As public health is in the hands of these operators, we want to be sure that they are adequately trained. Last year, 170 million dollars was spent on sewerage treatment facilities in the State. 40 million of this was State funds. With so much spent on the facilities, we want them to be run properly. The hiring is presently done at the municipal level. (presents fiscal note) There is a large initial expense which would drop off.

Johnson: I am in charge of the Juneau Borough Wastewater Operators and would like to speak about how this bill would benefit operators. Presently, Alaska has no certification program for waterwater operators, and I believe we are the last state without one. Certification requirements would support the establishment of training programs within the State, and would assist in application for EPA (federal) grants.

The majority signed to pass the bill out with a "do pass" recommendation. As Mr. Parr had arrived late, he chose not to sign until he had heard some testimony, so a quorum was not formed.

CSHB 402 Emancipation of Minors

Clocks: I support this bill as it is. It provides procedures for a minor to petition the court and become emancipated if he is self-supporting. It is presently not permitted for a minor to petition the court in his or her own name. Age restriction for voting, consumption of alcohol, and constitutional stipulations, however, cannot be waived by a court.

The bill was passed out with a "do pass" recommendation, with no objection.

CSSB 128am Transfer of Federal Agency Schools

Cooksey: This bill was drawn up to assist in the transfer of BIA schools to the State system. It provides for the transfer of BIA teachers so that they may receive the benefits currently enjoyed by State teachers, including the same pay scale, accumulated sick leave, tenure, and retirement. The original bill mandated the transfer; this one does not.

Bierne: What would happen in a case where a BIA teacher was not certified?

Cooksey: The bill specified Alaskan certification as a requirement in order to be transferred.

The bill was passed out with a "do pass" recommendation without objection.

HB 500 Halfway House for Female Prisoners

Newell: The 6th Avenue Annex, where female prisoners are presently kept in Anchorage, puts all women, pre-sentenced or post-sentenced into one big cell. This not only allows no privacy, but is not conducive to any rehabilitation program. There are constant interruptions as persons are brought in for such problems as drunk and disorderly conduct. This bill would provide funds to move sentenced prisoners to a half-way house operated by the Salvation Army.

Parr: In accordance with equal rights, why aren't the women sent to Eagle River? There should be no distinction made.

Adams: The present conditions are not equal. For men, there are separate facilities for sentenced and unsentenced persons. Facilities must be maintained for women in five places in the State, while they are awaiting trial, and there are not that many women.

Osterback: How many women could you take care of for this sum?

Adams: This would provide five beds in Anchorage.

Parr: You still have not answered why the women could not be sent to Eagle River.

Adams: Eagle River was designed specifically as a facility for men. There are no separate units for women, and so physical alterations would be required.

Parr: What does the Salvation Army charge?

Adams: \$22 per day.

Parr: What would be the legal responsibility of the Salvation Army under this set-up as they are not legal officials?

Adams: Under statute, we can furlough an individual, so we would be furloughing these individuals to the Salvation Army. If a problem should arise, the Salvation Army would notify us. We don't hold them legally liable.

Sullivan: There would be some sort of program provided for the inmates, is that right?

Adams: They would provide some counseling. Most of these women would be involved in outside activities.

Parr: Why couldn't we have on State facility for all sentenced women instead of having them in five places?

Adams: Particularly with short sentences, it would be a disservice to ship a woman far away from her community.

Bierne: I make a motion to pass the bill out.

The bill was passed out with a "do pass" recommendation, four signing in the majority, and one in the minority.

HB 501 Prisoner Relocation to Anchorage

Adams: This bill would provide for half-way house operations to be moved out of the 3rd Avenue Building so that we can use this as a maximum security facility. The estimated cost is \$167,700. This would allow more persons to be housed in the maximum security facility, and would allow some others to get into half-way houses.

Parr: We are not anticipating an increase in the number of prisoners, but will need five more positions. Is that right?

The bill was passed out with a "do pass" recommendation. Four signed in the majority, and one in the minority.

Sullivan: I would like to put together a calendar for the first two weeks of next session before we close. If any of you have any bills you would like to be included, please let me know.