

HB

793



Alaska State Legislature

House

JUNEAU ALASKA

HOUSE HESS COMMITTEE MEETING

MARCH 17, 1976

Present: Ostrosky Hackney
Davis Sullivan Beirne

Testified: Dick Block, Div. of Ins.
Bob Cole, Dept. H&SS
Ben Iverson, Dept. H&SS
Ken Ryals, Dept. H&SS

HB 190 Treatment of Alcoholism and Drug - Duncan, etc.

Dick Block, would provide a benefit that can be predicted whether or not it will be needed which may be uneconomical to insurance company's. The div. of insurance view is that it would be O.K. if mandated that it provided an option.

Bob Cole, Office of Alcoholism, supports bill, possibly with revision suggested by div. of insurance.

Committee response, decided not to do anything on this bill yet.

HB 793 - Annual advisory board meetings, public comment Dept. H&SS - Ostrosky

Ben Iverson, dept. encourages public input, but Ken Ryals doesn't feel that this is a practical method of community input.

No action by committee right now

HB 865 - Appropriation to Hope Cottage - HESS

Bob Gregovitch feels there is an extreme shortage of long term care of this type in Ak. Dept. is doing a study right now of the needs and wants to wait till that's done before they do anything like this., recommends not passing.

Ray Burt - Hope Cottage, feels that this bill would be beneficial for purposes of renovation, HC has been successful in the passed, also feels the Chugiak area would benefit from this

Committee discussion,

Hackney - recommends Amendment, (See Attached)

Vote on amendment, do pass
Vote on bill, do pass

Position Paper
on
House Bill 793

"An Act related to annual advisory board meetings devoted to the reception of public comment concerning the budget of the Department of Health & Social Services."

This bill amends AS.47.05.010 by adding enabling legislation to provide for the input of public comments on the departmental operating and capital budgets for the forthcoming fiscal year in July. While the concept concerned in this proposed legislation may be constitutionally sound, the proposed mechanism of operation would be cumbersome, time-consuming, and perhaps self-defeating. If enacted into law, each advisory board would be required to hold statewide hearings on the department's 42 separate Budget Request Units (BRU's), most of which would be outside the board's province and expertise.

The validity of the findings and recommendations of the various advisory committees must be questioned. Could the Drug Abuse Advisory Board respond to questions posed at a public hearing on the budget of the Environmental Health Section of Public Health dealing with restaurant inspection? Could the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee adequately relate the program and respond to questions about Probation and Parole at public hearings? And will the findings in Kodiak be consistent with the recommendations of the advisory boards from Fairbanks or Petersburg?

The problem of collating the findings of the nine advisory boards, shifting them for frequency and validity, and then presenting them to the concerned department programs is unwieldy in terms of time also. The Bill provides for public hearings in July; yet the budget must be presented to the Governor in October. This time frame is further constricted by the fact that many of the department officials are involved in tie offs for the previous fiscal year. Some of this activity can't be completed before September. Therefore, their assistance will be minimal during the months of July and August.

The Department of Health and Social Services foresaw the legislative concern for the public when the advisory boards were established. While it is true that they do not involve themselves with the whole of the department, they are concerned citizens who provide the department with guidance within their areas of speciality. As such, they represent the public interest. It should be noted also that the budget of the department is a public document and available for public comment at any time.

The Department of Health & Social Services cannot recommend passage of this Bill as it involves an increase in expenditures that exceeds the Governor's Budget.

POSITION PAPER / Department of Health and Social Services

Recommended by:

V. L. Iverson

V. L. Iverson, Director
Div. of Administrative Services

3/17/76
Date

Approved by:

Francis S. L. Williamson

Francis S. L. Williamson, Commissioner
Dept. of Health & Social Services

3/17/76
Date

Advisory Boards

Advisory Committee of Aging	15
Developmental Disabilities Planning & Advisory Council	15
Drug Abuse Advisory Board	11
Medical Care Advisory Board	10
Welfare Advisory Board	41
Alcoholism	7
CHAC	23
EMS "Ad Hoc" Commission	6
Hill-Burton Advisory Commission	<u>11</u>
Total Membership	139

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
FISCAL NOTE

Second Session - Ninth Legislature

I. REQUEST

Bill No. HB793

Title: Public Comment on H&SS Budget

Requested by: _____

Date: 3/8/76

Return Date Requested: _____

Agency: Administrative Services Division Program: _____

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Budget Request Unit(s) Affected: All

A. EXPENDITURES: (Thousands of dollars)

OBJECT	FY 76	FY 77	FY 78	FY 79	FY 80	FY 81
100 PERSONAL SERVICES	6	7	8	9	10	11
200 TRAVEL	20	21	22	24	27	30
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 COMMODITIES	1	2	2	3	3	4
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
TOTAL	27	30	32	36	40	45

B. FUNDING: (Thousands of dollars)

	FY 76	FY 77	FY 78	FY 79	FY 80	FY 81
GENERAL FUND	27	30	32	36	40	45
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						

C. POSITIONS:

	FY 76	FY 77	FY 78	FY 79	FY 80	FY 81
PERMANENT/TEMPORARY	/5	/5	/5	/5	/5	/5
MAN MONTHS (P./T.)	/5	/5	/5	/5	/5	/5

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instructions, Section III)

It is estimated that some travel and per diem may be required by advisory board officials so that public meetings can be scheduled on other than regular hours for the convenience of the public. No personnel services expenditures other than part-time clerical support are anticipated, as the members of the advisory boards are volunteers.

The Department of Health & Social Services cannot recommend passage of this Bill as it involves and increase in expenditures that exceeds the Governor's Budget.

IV. ATTACHMENTS

V. DATE: 3/8/76

PREPARED BY: Kenneth R. Ryals, Admin. Officer

Original: Legislative Finance
cc: Budget and Management
Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named)
Reviewed by Financial Management