

HB

631

House Judiciary Committee  
February 20, 1976

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gardiner at 1:20 p.m.  
Members present were Brown, Eliason, Parr, Gardiner, Cotten and Bradley.

HB 631            COMMUNICATIONS CARRIER/PUC

HB  
631

Mr. Brown stated that this was advocating the lowest possible rates, and was considered a priority by the subcommittee on telecommunications.

Mr. Brown moved HB 631 out of committee with a further referral to Finance. No objection, it was so ordered.

HB 633            REGULATION OF PUBLIC UTILITY RATES

HB  
633

Companion bill to HB 631. Mr. Brown moved HB 633 out of committee to wait in Rules for HB 631 to come from Finance. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

HB 574            MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

HB  
574

Amendment by Anne after slight modifications by Committee:

ARTICLE 3. LOAN FUND.

Sec. 21.88.110. FUND ESTABLISHED. (a) There is in the Department of Commerce and Economic Development a medical malpractice liability revolving loan fund to be administered by the director of insurance.

(b) Loans from the fund shall be made to the corporation upon certification by the Director of the Division of Insurance that the loan is necessary for the corporation to maintain adequate reserves or for initial costs of operation. If a loan is made to the corporation from the fund, the corporation shall issue a note to the fund pledging the premiums collected in the future as security for the loan.

(c) Loans from the fund shall be repaid by the corporation within four years at an annual interest rate of seven per cent.

(d) The director may sell or transfer at par value to the Department of Revenue the notes held by the Department of Commerce and Economic Development as security for loans made under this section. The Department of Revenue shall purchase all the notes offered until the current principal amount of notes purchased and held by the Department of Revenue equals \$5,000,000.

Mr. Brown moved that the above amendment be adopted. There being no objection, it was adopted.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TO: APUC

DATE: 1/20/76

(~~SENATE~~ - HOUSE) BILL 631  
SB 561

RE: Providing for a communications carriers  
act in the APUC

Check One:

- 1. TOP PRIORITY - in favor of
- 2. FAVOR - in favor of, but not top priority
- 3. OK - no definite stand
- 4. NOT IN FAVOR
- 5. TOP PRIORITY - "Strongly Opposed"
- 6. BILL DOES NOT PERTAIN TO DIVISION
- 7. Bill does not directly pertain to division, but I am interested in its progress. Keep me informed.

COMMENTS: (Justification must be stated for #1 - #6 above. Continue on another page if needed).

I am in favor of this bill which will hopefully relieve a portion of the burden that is presently being borne by the Alaska Public Utilities Commission staff.

A minor housekeeping item which probably has been corrected by now is the mislabeling of the statute as AS 42.07 when I believe the author meant AS 42.05.

Another correction might be advisable in proposed section 42.05.123(a). In this section communications common carriers would be limited to the use of wire, cable, radio and space satellites. In a progressive state such as ours I do not think that the carrier should be restricted by statutes to only those modes of communications in view of

(SEE ATTACHED PAGE 2)

Writer's Signature: [Signature]  
Writer's Title: Chairman, APUC  
(DEADLINE 24 hours)

(Note: Please return to Information Officer/Leg Asst., Office of the Commissioner)

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the technological advancements in waveguides, lasers, fiber-optics, etc. I would suggest that the last sentence of 42.05.123(a) end with the words, "involving the use of telecommunications." The definition of telecommunications as set forth in AS 42.05.701(8) states:

"'telecommunications' means the transmission and reception of messages, impressions, pictures and signals by means of electricity, electromagnetic waves and any other kind of energy, force variations or impulses whether conveyed by cable, wire, radiated through space, or transmitted through other media within a specified area or between designated points."

This definition might be appropriate for this bill.

TO: APUC

DATE: 1/20/76

(~~SENATE~~ - HOUSE) BILL 631 + SB561

RE: Providing for a communications carriers section in the APUC

Check One:

- 1. TOP PRIORITY - in favor of. ✓
- 2. FAVOR - in favor of, but not top priority.
- 3. OK - no definite stand.
- 4. NOT IN FAVOR -
- 5. TOP PRIORITY - "Strongly Opposed"
- 6. BILL DOES NOT PERTAIN TO DIVISION

COMMENTS: (Justification must be stated for the above line checked - Continue on another page if needed.)

I am strongly in favor of HB 631.

The past and current operational profile of this Commission is one of reaction --- reaction to utility requests for rate relief and reaction to consumer complaints with regard to quality of service. A dedicated strike force within the APUC would take the burden of rates and quality of service to the utility and would provide the vehicle for continuous monitoring by the Commission of their operation. It would be difficult to place an exact dollar saving to the rate payer of Alaska but I would envision a very substantial amount.

This bill would substantially impact the APUC budget in the categories of personnel, equipment and travel.

Writer's Signature: 

Writer's Title: APUC Commissioner

DEADLINE 24 HOURS)