

HB

611

SENATE AMENDMENT

By Rodey

To: Authorizing state aid SENATE BILL No. #326

To: Authorizing state aid HOUSE BILL No. #611

PAGE: 5 LINE: 8

ADD: (L) educational activities; and
(N) employment services;

northern alaska health resources association, inc.

April 11, 1980

The Honorable Thelma Buchholdt, Chairman
House HESS Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Buchholdt:

On behalf of the Northern Alaska Health Resources Association (NAHRA), I am writing to encourage your support of HB 611, which would authorize State aid for service programs for older Alaskans.

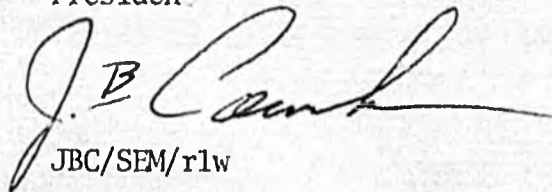
During the past several months, NAHRA has devoted a great deal of effort to planning for long term care services. In particular, we are encouraging the development of nutrition, recreation, information and referral, and home health services. However, none of those programs can be implemented successfully without State assistance.

Community program grants as proposed by HB 611 would allow continued operation of existing senior service programs at a time when federal cutbacks threaten their existence. Seed monies for pilot programs would facilitate start-up of services which might otherwise never develop, especially outside of Anchorage and Fairbanks. Because of these attributes, HB 611 is highly consistent with NAHRA's plans.

We urge your support of HB 611. Please inform us of your position.

Sincerely,

J.B. Carnahan
President



JBC/SEM/rlw

POSITION PAPER
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 611

"An Act authorizing state aid for service programs for the benefit of older Alaskans."

House Bill 611 creates a state aid program for providing services to benefit older Alaskans. The program would be administered by the Older Alaskans Commission, (created by House Bill 618). House Bill 611 would provide for grants for pilot projects and community service programs. Each sponsor receiving a grant would be required to provide cash or in-kind match, as a condition of receiving state grant funds. The amount of the sponsor contribution would be based on the community's ability to pay, which is determined by property values and the population planned to be served by the grants. The cost of the grants provided for in H.B. 610 is \$1 million dollars in state general funds in FY 81.

The Department of Health and Social Services recognizes that there are many programs and services needed by seniors that are currently not routinely provided by any public or private source. House Bill 610 would help bridge the gap by provided funds for pilot project to experiment on innovative and potential cost-saving ways to provide services to seniors and by providing funds for expanded community service grants.

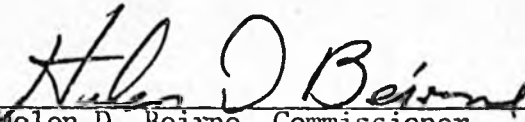
Potential Discussion Areas

1. With no requirement that the Commission consider geographical diversity of grant awards, it may be possible for the entire appropriation to go to a single area of the state, rather than be distributed equally throughout Alaska.
2. The Department of Health and Social Services prepares extensive needs assessments and state plans, especially in the areas of health and facility construction. It may be useful to include a requirement that the Commission utilize existing state plans and needs assessments in its evaluation of the merits of proposed projects.
3. The multitude of programs eligible for grants may provide a scattergun approach to service needs of seniors, rather than a clearly defined comprehensive look to solve a specific problem. For example, the needs for residential care in the state are great and could easily absorb the entire \$1 million dollars appropriation. It may be useful for the bill to include a list of priorities to assist the Commission in its deliberations. Such as, in the first year, a priority might be funding projects that have potential of long run cost effectiveness and provide for increased self-sufficiency of seniors.

4. We can foresee that such an extensive grant program that covers a multitude of services will attract a lot of interest from many parties. This would require the Commission to process and evaluate many grant applications. These extensive grant reviews and evaluation processes could serve to bog down the Commission. Since it plans to meet only six (6) times a year, necessary coordination of programs and providing advice to state departments may be potentially neglected, as a result.

The Department of Health and Social Services supports the concepts embodied in House Bill 611. We would also like to refer the Committee to the Department's position paper on H.B. 618 - the creation of the Older Alaskans Commission - and reconfirm our position that we do not believe it appropriate for the Commission to handle day-to-day management functions such as those anticipated by House Bill 610 and House Bill 611.

Approved by:



Helen D. Beirne, Commissioner
Department of Health and Social
Services

2-26-80
(DATE)

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST
 Bill/Resolution No. House Bill No. 611
 Title Authorizing state aid for service prog. for benefit of older Alaskans.
 Requested by _____ Date _____

II. FISCAL DETAIL Department of Health and Social Services
 Agency Affected _____
 Program Category Affected Social and Economic Assistance to the Aged.
 BRU, Program, or Subprogram(s) Affected Office on Aging
 (Note: If more than one budget component is affected, separate line-item amounts and funding for each component in the analysis section.)

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

| | FY 80 | FY 81 | FY 82 | FY 83 | FY 84 | FY 85 |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 100 PERSONAL SERVICES | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- |
| 200 TRAVEL | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- |
| 300 CONTRACTUAL | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- |
| 400 COMMODITIES | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- |
| 500 EQUIPMENT | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- |
| 600 LAND & STRUCTURES | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- |
| 700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC. | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- |
| TOTAL | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- |

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| GENERAL FUND | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- |
| FEDERAL FUNDS | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- |
| OTHER (Specify Fund Source) | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

POSITIONS

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| FULL TIME | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- |
| PART TIME | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- |
| TEMPORARY | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- |

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

Original: Legislative Finance Prepared by: M.D. Plotnick Date: 2/27/80
 cc: Budget and Management ~~XXXXXX~~ Office: on Aging PH: 465-4903
 Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named) Department of Health & Social Services

33-001 (Rev. 12/79)
 Modify by DHSS (11-28-79)

Approval DHSS Mgt. & Bdgt: Mike Dalore Date: 2/27/80

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