

SCR

40

POSITION PAPER  
ON  
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 40 am

"Relating to expansion of the period during which Older Alaskans may travel free on the state marine highway system."

Senate Concurrent Resolution 40 am provides for increasing the time that Older Alaskans can ride on the Alaska Marine Highway System on space-available basis within Alaska without charge. Senate Concurrent Resolution 40 am would increase the days that seniors would travel free on the ferries to include the full month of October and the first 15 days of May. Mr. James Eide, Director of Marine Highways testified at Senate Finance Committee hearings on this resolution that the added service would not "hamper the operations of the system."

The Department of Health and Social Services recognizes that transportation is one of the key services that seniors need. Lack of transportation is often cited as a major obstacle in the provision and receipt of other necessary services such as medical care for the elderly. We believe this is especially true for seniors on low or fixed incomes. Travel expenses have recently been rising dramatically in response to high fuel costs. These added costs place an increased burden on these elderly citizen's already tight budgets.

Our Office on Aging reports that seniors have utilized free ferry service in the past for many purposes including to visit friends and relatives, meet with other senior groups, and attend recreational activities such as regional fairs. Also, the expansion of free ferry service might allow seniors living in small villages, such as Hoonah, to come to larger towns, such as Juneau to receive medical care or purchase supplies that are unavailable at home.

The Department of Health and Social Services recognizes the need for increased availability of transportation services for our older citizens and, therefore, supports the passage of this resolution.

Approved by:

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

*2-26-80*  
(DATE)

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. Senate Concurrent Resolution #40 an  
 Title "Expansion period-older Alaskans travel on state marine highway system."  
 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  
 cc: Budget and Management  
 Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named) \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by: M.D. Plotnick Date: 2/25/80  
 Office: on Aging PH: 465-4902  
 Department of Health & Social Services

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

Approval DHSS Mgt. & Bldgt M. D. Plotnick Date 2/26/80

Page \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_