

# COMMITTEE REPORT

## HOUSE

3/17/81

FURTHER:

(11)

Date: April 1, 1981

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on FINANCE has had SB 139

"An Act making a special appropriation to the Department of Health and Social Services for two positions at the Fairbanks Northern regional laboratory; and providing for an effective date."

under consideration and reports it back as follows:

- do pass                                 [ ] do not pass
- [ ] do pass with attached amendments(s)
- [ ] replace with CS for \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] same title  
  [ ] new title
- and recommends \_\_\_\_\_
- [ ] AND attaches a "Letter of Intent"     [ ] New Fiscal Note
- [ ] reports it back without recommendation
- [ ] referred to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING  
DO PASS

Freeman  
San Gil  
Buechholtz  
WON  
Robert P. Adams  
John Casey  
Rich  
J. Malone

MEMBERS HAVING  
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Montgomery Not rec.

San Gil  
CHAIRMAN

Funding Information  
General Fund \$71,300  
Other Funds -0-  
\$71,300

Introduced: 2/3/81  
Referred: Health, Education &  
Social Services and Finance

1 IN THE SENATE

BY PARR, FAHRENKAMP AND BENNETT

2 SENATE BILL NO. 139

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act making a special appropriation to the Depart-  
7 ment of Health and Social Services for two positions  
8 at the Fairbanks Northern regional laboratory; and  
9 providing for an effective date."

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

11 \* Section 1. The sum of \$71,300 is appropriated from the general fund to  
12 the Department of Health and Social Services for the salaries and associated  
13 costs for a full-time microbiologist II and a full-time laboratory assistant  
14 II at the Fairbanks Northern regional laboratory.

15 \* Sec. 2. The unexpended and unobligated portion of the appropriation  
16 made by this Act lapses into the general fund June 30, 1982.

17 \* Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.10.-  
18 070(c).

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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SB 139 file my bill

REPRESENTATIVE SALLY SMITH • 321 CHURCH STREET • FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701 • IN JUNEAU: POUCH V • JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

March 12, 1981

SB  
file 139

Donald E. Thieman, M.D., President  
Fairbanks Medical Association  
1001 Noble Street  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Dr. Thieman:

Thank you for your letter stating your support for Senator Parr's bill (Senate Bill 139) providing for a special appropriation to fund two positions at the Fairbanks Northern regional laboratory.

Senate Bill 139 is in the House Health, Education, and Social Services Committee, pending hearing. On March 16 at 3:00 PM the HESS committee will consider this bill. I am sending HESS Chairman Donald E. Clocksin a copy of your letter. If you have additional input, I urge you to contact Representative Clocksin at Pouch V in Juneau, 99811. You may be assured that I support this bill, and will vote for it when it comes before the House.

Again, thanks for the input.

Sincerely,

Sally Smith  
Alaska State Representative

cc: Rep. Clocksin ✓  
Senator Parr ✓

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

### DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

SECTION OF LABORATORIES  
POUCH H-06-D  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811  
PHONE: (907) 465-3140

January 20, 1981

Document# 3-81

Honorable Charles Parr  
Alaska State Senate  
Alaska State Legislature  
Pouch V  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Parr:

During our conversation of December 5 we discussed the possibility of shifting laboratory staff positions from the Southeastern Regional Laboratory to the Northern Regional Laboratory. This action was being considered to alleviate workload problems in the Fairbanks laboratory which will occur when two laboratory staff positions are eliminated sometime in January. In response to this suggestion I have made a management survey of both laboratories to determine if this is a viable option.

Methods of determining workloads were those recommended by the Workload Measurement Committee of the Association of State and Territorial Public Health Laboratory Directors which is a national organization of Public Health Laboratory Directors. Using these methods all specimen numbers are converted into work time units which is a measure of the time required for a laboratorian to perform the needed test work. The advantage to this measure is that it allows one to compare different specimen types using a common unit of measure. Once individual work time units for specimen types have been determined these are multiplied by the total number of specimens in that category to give the total time devoted to a certain type of specimen. Table 1 shows the results of this analysis for all the Regional Laboratories. The Southeastern Regional Laboratory had a total of 80,616 work time units processed from July 1, 1980 to October 31, 1980. During this same time period the Northern Regional Laboratory had a total of 96,903 work time units. Table 2 shows the staff by category and gives workload staff ratios for the same period.

From this analysis it would appear that the Southeastern Regional Laboratory and the Northern Regional Laboratory have about the same work to staff ratios. Therefore shifting positions from Southeast to Northern Laboratory is not a viable option. I have also included in brackets the impact on these ratios in the event that layoffs in the Fairbanks facility occur in January. My concern is with the work load microbiology staffing ratio which will be at 48,451, a level which I feel is unacceptable.

Honorable Charles Parr

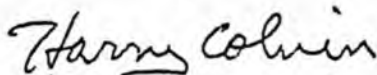
-2-

January 20, 1981

For this reason I believe that reductions in laboratory services will be necessary unless funding for these position can be found and the positions restored to the laboratory budget in FY '82. Enclosed also is a table showing financial needs and position authorizations required if a supplemental appropriation is to be introduced. Equipment and travel costs were estimates requested by Representative Brian Rogers during a visit to the Northern Regional Laboratory in December.

Your concern and support for a most critical health support activity in Northern Region is appreciated and if I can be of any further assistance please advise.

Sincerely,



Harry J. Colvin, Ph.D.  
Chief, Section of Laboratories

Enclosures

cc: Representative Sally Smith

TABLE 1: Shows the major testing categories and the total number of Work Time Units<sup>1</sup> devoted to that activity from July 1, 1980 to October 31, 1980 in Regional Laboratories.

<u>TEST PROCEDURE</u>	<u>WORK TIME UNITS (minutes)</u>		
	SERL	NRL	SCRL
Serology	4,120	8,364	25,374
Diagnostic Microbiology	31,420	71,064	144,829
Parasitology	6,547	10,815	9,620
Food Microbiology	75	-0-	855
Water Microbiology	2,530	6,660	5,930
PSP	24,930	-0-	-0-
Water Chemistry	1,394	-0-	-0-
Survey Preparation <sup>2</sup>	<u>9,600</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
TOTAL	80,616	96,903	186,608

<sup>1</sup> Work Time Unit = The time in minutes required for a microbiologist to complete a test procedure. Does not include time required for setting up, media reagent preparation, and clerical support for test procedures.

<sup>2</sup> Proficiency Testing Program for Syphilis Serology.

TABLE 2: Shows technical staff by category, total technical staff, and total WTU performed from July 1 to October 31, 1980, and various WTU/staff ratio for the Regional Laboratories.

POSITIONS:	SERL	NRL	SCRL
Micro. IV	.5	0	.5
Micro. III	1	1	1
Micro. II	1	2	4.5
Lab. Assistants	2	3	3
Clerical	<u>1</u>	<u>1.5</u>	<u>4</u>
TOTAL STAFF	5.5	7.5	13
TOTAL WTU (TWTU)	80,616	96,903	186,608

RATIOS:

TWTU/total Micro.	32,246	32,301	[48,451] <sup>1</sup>	31,101
TWTU/total Lab. Asst.	40,308	32,301	[48,451]	62,202
TWTU/total clerical	80,616	64,602	[64,602]	46,652
TWTU/total staff	14,657	12,920	[17,618]	14,354

<sup>1</sup> Numbers in brackets show the impact on workload/staff ratio in the event of layoffs of Micro. II and Lab. Asst. II positions.



Northern Regional Laboratory  
Financial Request Summary

FY '81

A. Authorize 24 months for two permanent full time positions, replacing the 24 months deleted from FY '81 final budget.

B. Personnel (100):  
Projected Deficit 66.0

Equipment (500):  
Barnstead Still 5.3  
IBM Typewriter 1.2  
Laboratory Dishwashers 24.3  
Refrigerator .9  
FA Microscope 12.5  
44.2  
20% Inflation 8.8  
53.0

Travel (200)  
Training and Consultation: 5.0  
124.0

FY '82

A. Authorize 24 months for two permanent full time positions, replacing the 24 months deleted from FY '81 final budget.

B. Personnel (100):  
Micro. II and Lab. Asst. II 66.3

Travel (200):  
Training and Consultation 5.0  
71.3



Historically, Alaska was divided into judicial districts during territorial days and district service areas evolved; i.e., Southeastern, Southcentral and Northern Regional areas. Laboratories were established and provided basic diagnostic support in each regional area. Statehood and the subsequent growth of the State's needs fostered a shift in each laboratory's services; some became specialized to meet specific regional changes. Today, quality bacterial diagnostic service is available via the private sector and a shift is again evident; i.e., regional Public Health Laboratories are shifting to providing training and reference service, and less basic diagnostic service.

The Northern Regional Laboratory is comprised of two units, a bacteriology unit which serves all communities north of the Alaska Range, and the Virology-Rabies Unit serving each of the three regions.

The Bacteriology Unit processes a variety of specimens (34,800 annually) and performs approximately 45,144 tests each year. The following represent special areas of function and distribution of work:

Streptococcal specimens	23%
Syphilis serology	33%
Venereal disease program	28%
Reference bacteriology	10%
Diagnostic parasitology	4%
Diagnostic enteric bacteriology	2%

The Virology-Rabies Unit had its inception as a State entity in 1974, and prior to this date was a part of the Arctic Health Research Center, USPHS. This unit provides diagnostic viral services to clinicians, State and Federal agencies, and State and Federal epidemiologists. The Unit establishes diagnostic procedures advising physicians and agencies on a state-wide basis concerning availability of services, and consultation on specific cases of viral infection. The VRU

continues to work cooperatively with other agencies via limited/applied research to meet present and the future needs of Alaska.

Finally, during 1980, 3,700 diagnostic viral specimens were processed, 6,039 tests performed, and 20,179 viral host systems used (cell culture, eggs, and mice). There were 234 animals surveyed for rabies, and 54 positive animals. One hundred seventy-six individuals were exposed, but only 24 required treatment.

## POSITION PAPER

Senate Bill No. 139

"An act making a special appropriation to the Department of Health and Social Services for two positions at the Fairbanks Northern Regional Laboratories and providing for an effective date."

SB No. 139 provides a special appropriation to cover the costs of a Microbiologist II and a Laboratory Assistant II in our Fairbanks Virology and Microbiology Laboratories and for travel monies to be used in the training of these positions.

In the preparation of the FY 81 operating budget we calculated that by eliminating certain workloads in the Fairbanks Laboratory we could reduce our staffing from 13.5 positions to 11.5. This workload reduction has not materialized. The majority of the water microbiology has been turned over to private laboratories. The Tuberculosis Program and Beta Strep Program have been transferred to our Anchorage Laboratory. This still has not reduced our workload to allow for the elimination of a Microbiologist II and a Laboratory Assistant II.

We are requesting that a sum of \$88,400 be appropriated for the salaries and associated costs of a Microbiologist II and a full-time Laboratory Assistant II. This sum is to be split in the following manner; \$18,700 for the last quarter of FY 81 and \$69,700 for FY 82.

It is recommended the following changes be made:

line 11 - change the sum of money (\$71,300) to \$88,400.

line 14 - add the following after "laboratory." "Of this sum \$18,700 is to be added to the FY 81 operating budget and \$69,700 is to be added to the FY 82 operating budget. These positions are to be part of the FY 83 Laboratories operating budget."

The Department supports the passage of Senate Bill No. 139 amended as recommended above.

Recommended by:

David Bruce  
David Bruce, Deputy Director  
Division of Public Health

Date:

February 11, 1981

Approved by:

Helen D. Beirne  
Helen D. Beirne  
Commissioner

Date:

2/11/81

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. Senate Bill No. 139  
 Title An Act making a special appropriation to the Department Health & Social Services  
 Requested by Commissioner's Office Date \_\_\_\_\_

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected Department of Health & Social Services  
 Program Category Affected Health/Division of Public Health  
 BRU, Program, or Subprogram(s) Affected Laboratories  
 (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 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86
100 PERSONAL SERVICES	15.7	63.7	68.8	74.3	80.2	86.7
200 TRAVEL	3.0	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.6	8.2
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>69.7</b>	<b>75.3</b>	<b>81.3</b>	<b>87.8</b>	<b>94.9</b>

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	18.7	69.7	75.3	81.3	87.8	94.9
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER (Specify Fund Source)	0	0	0	0	0	0
	18.7	69.7	75.3	81.3	87.8	94.9

POSITIONS

FULL TIME	2	2	2	2	2	2
PART TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

Assume an inflation rate of 8%.

IV. DATE \_\_\_\_\_ PREPARED BY David Bruce, Deputy Director  
 AGENCY Public Health  
 PHONE 465-3090  
 Original: Legislative Finance  
 cc: Budget and Management  
 Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named)

*David Bruce*