

H B

756

COMMITTEE REPORT

HOUSE

3/10 Rules

(11)

FURTHER:

2/11/82

Date: 3/9/82

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on FINANCE has had HB 756

"An Act relating to the amount of money available for fire suppression; and providing for an effective date."

under consideration and reports it back with the following recommendations:

- do pass do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for 756 (FIN) same title
 new title
- and recommends do pass
- Also attaches a "Letter of Intent" New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without recommendation
- referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING DO PASS

MEMBERS HAVING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Robert P. Adams
 Hauge Hauge
 R. Bettisworth Bettisworth
 Hurlbert Hurlbert
 Carney Carney
 Cotten Cotten
 Chuckwick Chuckwick
 Fuller Fuller

Cuddy David Cuddy no rec
 Montgomery Montgomery No rec

Robert P. Adams
 CHAIRMAN



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

265-4389 call when
calendared
State & Private Forestry
2221 E. Northern Lights, Suite 107
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

Reply to: 3210

Date: March 2, 1982
DIV. OF FORESTRY

MAR 4 1982

DIRECTORS OFFICE

Ted Smith, State Forester
Dept. of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
Pouch 7-005
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Ted:

With the unusual weather Alaska has received so far this winter and if this pattern continues as such, an early fire season can be expected. In case this develops, I have directed the Alaska Avalanche and Fire Weather Forecast Center to plan on April 15th to start providing a fire weather forecast to all agencies for the Glennallen - Mat-Su - Kenai Peninsula - Iliamna Areas. April 15th is not a magic number and may vary depending upon the weather and the agencies needs. May 15th is still the target date for the normal state-wide fire weather forecast start up unless the weather dictates an earlier time.

The fire weather forecast will be through the AFFIRMS. In addition, a written forecast will be provided which we hope will be available for accessing through AFFIRMS. The AA/FWFC and the National Weather Service is in the process of booking up software that will allow for transferring the written forecast straight from the NWS Prime Computer to AFFIRMS. If this doesn't work out then the written forecast will be available for accessing only from the Prime Computer. No standup briefings or lightning detection information will be available for this early start up.

In order to get the system on line by April 15th, the effected agencies will have to start inputting their weather observations into AFFIRMS at least 7-14 days prior to this time. Otherwise for the first three - six days, the AFFIRMS output will not be accurate and probably misleading.

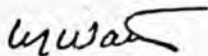
For the initial planning, the Center's Fire Weather Forecasting operations schedule will be five days on and two days on call basis. If the fire weather dictates as such, the center will be manned on a seven day basis.

Ops to John
3-8



If you have any questions, please call Bob Thompson, AA/FWFC Lead Meteorologist or myself.

Sincerely,



WALLACE J. WATTS
Program Director, Alaska Avalanche &
Fire Weather Forecast System

cc: Bob Thompson, AA/FWFC
Bob Janes, FS
Richard Hanas, NWS
Skip Scott



HB 756

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

February 11, 1982

The Honorable Joe L. Hayes
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill raising from five million to ten million dollars the ceiling on the amount of money that I may transfer from the reserve for emergency operating expenses account to the fire suppression fund.

The state does not presently have the full capacity to provide logistical support for a fire organization of the magnitude expected to be necessary by 1985. The land protected by the state, now and in the near future, is that which is of highest value and population density. In the event of a major wildfire (at a cost of over \$200,000 a day to fight), the current five million dollar limit would be exhausted in a matter of weeks, leaving the state critically vulnerable during a very dry fire season.

Alaska's wildfire prevention responsibility is growing at a very rapid rate because of two major factors: (1) the state is assuming protection responsibility on more state and privately owned land which was formerly protected by the federal Bureau of Land Management under an agreement with the state; and (2) the federal government is conveying land to the state under the statehood general grant selection process at a rate greater than what has been anticipated.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay S. Hammond".

Jay S. Hammond
Governor