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PIONEER POSITION PAPER: SB 256 by Sen. Parr

TO: All Igloos & Auxiliarys, Pioneers of Alaska

FROM: Bob Gore, Chairman, Legislative Committee, Past Grand  
President, Pioneers of Alaska

This Bill is an Act: "Repealing the requirement that the Person managing or administering an Alaska Pioneers Home be a licensed Nursing Home Administrator."

BACKGROUND:

Until the legislative session of 1980, the Governor and the Commissioner of the Department of Administration had the prerogative and discretionary authority to appoint any person they felt was qualified and able to manage or administer an Alaska Pioneers' Home. Those chosen were usually selected for administrative experience and management skills plus an ability to recognize the needs of and cope with the life style of the Elderly Alaskans and Pioneers who had entered a Pioneer Home as their final residence. The Pioneer Home Managers so selected are primarily responsible for the development of the present attitude and character of our Pioneer Homes as "Homes for the Living" as opposed to some of the Private nursing homes, which give the impression of being "Institutions for the Dying" or useless Elderly.

In 1980, believing the 'professionalism' at the management level might benefit the operation of the Pioneer Homes, the Administration and Legislature supported and passed a Bill which became AS 08.70.080, requiring any new Pioneer Home manager or administrator to be the holder of a Nursing Home Administrator's License.

The passage of AS 08.70.080 did not materially affect the management of the Pioneer Homes. Passage did not bring any higher level of professionalism to Home management than had previously existed, as Pioneer Home management requirements and procedures in many areas often exceed the licensing requirements of private nursing homes. Medical professionalism is provided by the Pioneer Homes physicians and nursing staff and by the professional licensing examiners. Because Pioneer Homes are State operated facilities they are subject to the same strict scrutiny as the privately operated nursing homes and it sometimes appears as if the examiners,

PIONEER POSITION PAPER

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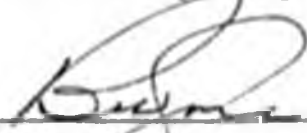
who are usually representatives of the medical profession make certain that the Pioneer Homes comply to the most stringent degree with applicable licensing requirements.

Strict compliance with licensing requirements is a matter of normal procedure with the Pioneer Homes and careful scrutiny by licensing examiners is welcomed by the Department of Administration as a means of guaranteeing and insuring good and professional management of our Pioneer Homes under an operational system employing managers or administrators selected for their administrative experience and managerial skills together with their ability to cope with the needs and demands of the elderly, individualistic Alaskans who reside in our Pioneer Homes.

Rather than benefitting the Pioneer Homes, passage of AS 08.70.080 imposed a possible constraint on the continuance of their present and desirable style of management. Selection of Pioneer Home managers is now limited by this law to those applicants who may possess only the medical and technical knowledge necessary to pass the examination for a nursing home administrators license, but who may very well lack the necessary administrative experience and management skills and who may possibly have no conception of the difference in the life style maintained in the Pioneer Homes and the style and manner in which some of the private nursing homes in Alaska are operated.

Sen. Parr and his co-sponsors on SB256 understand the needs of our Pioneer Homes and passage of this Bill will help to guarantee the continuance of our present operational management methods and provide the best for the well-being of our Pioneer Home residents.

SB 256 has been endorsed by the Pioneers Homes Advisory Board, the Department of Administration and the Legislative Committee for the Grand Igloo of the Pioneers of Alaska. All Pioneers should urge their local legislators to support and work for passage of SB256.



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R.R. Gore, Past Grand President  
Chairman, Legislative Committee  
Grand Igloo, Pioneers of Alaska

Funding Information  
General Funds \$128,500  
Other Funds -0-  
\$128,500

Introduced: 3/9/81  
Referred: Health, Education &  
Social Services and Finance

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY  
REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

2 SENATE BILL NO. 259

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 supplemental appropriation to the  
7 Department of Health and Social Services, division of  
8 public health, and providing for an effective date."

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

10 \* Section 1. The sum of \$128,500 is appropriated from the general fund  
11 to the Department of Health and Social Services, division of public health,  
12 to pay the costs of public health nursing services in the Kotzebue area.

13 \* Sec. 2. The unexpended and unobligated part of the appropriation made  
14 in this Act lapses into the general fund June 30, 1981.

15 \* Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.10.  
16 070(c).

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20 Marcia Hubbard  
4-15-81

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