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Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

Senate

Judiciary Committee

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Senator Bennett
Senator Hohman
Senator Parr
Senator Ray

FROM: Senator Rodey

DATE: May 20, 1981

SUBJECT: SB 266 "An Act establishing an official policy of using neutral pronouns in Alaska Statutes; and providing for an effective date."

Based on the comments presented by the committee on this bill, I have had the following substitute drafted.

I would appreciate your looking it over before the next meeting.

PMR/ods
Attachment

A M E N D M E N T

Offered in the SENATE

By the Judiciary Committee

TO: SB 266

Page 1, line 18:

Delete "sexually explicit pronouns" and insert the following in its place: "pronouns denoting masculine or feminine gender"

Page 1, line 27:

Delete "sexually explicit pronouns" and insert the following in its place: "pronouns denoting masculine or feminine gender"

Page 2, line 5:

Delete "sexually explicit pronouns" and insert the following in its place: "pronouns denoting masculine or feminine gender"



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

Senate

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Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

April 21, 1981

Ms. Barbara Schuhmann
Chairperson
Alaska Commission on the
Status of Women
338 Denali Street, Suite 850
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. Schuhmann:

Thank you for your letter of support for SB 266.

Although the committee is extremely backlogged with legislation to hear before adjournment, I will make every effort to schedule SB 266 this year.

I appreciate your concerns in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat".

Senator Patrick M. Rodey
Chairman

PMR/ods

JAY S. HAMMOND
GOVERNOR



PHONE
(907) 276-3003

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ALASKA COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
338 DENALI STREET, SUITE 850
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

RECEIVED

April 15, 1981

APR 20 1981

Senator Pat Rodey, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Sen. Rodey:

On March 21, 1981 the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women voted to support SB 266, an act which would establish an official policy of using neutral pronouns in all statutory language. While the Commission fully supports this bill and concept, it also voted to urge the legislature to eliminate the use of all sexist terminology in statutory language.

We believe that our language not only embodies our values, but also communicates and fosters certain attitudes. Eliminating sexist language from state law which sets the norm for acceptable behavior, is a major step in changing those attitudes which would discourage women and men from achieving their fullest potential.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Schuhmann".

Barbara Schuhmann
Chairperson

Senate criticizes driving law, then delays action

By The Associated Press

Senators mumbled complaints today about the point system used to penalize drivers who get tickets, then delayed action on a bill which would require drivers who tally a certain number of violations to take a defensive driving class.

Senate President Jalmar Kerttula, D-Palmer, said "this whole point system is a lousy law." Others made similar assessments.

Under the law, drivers accumulate points for traffic violations. The program is designed to help the Department of Motor Vehicles identify habitual or frequent violators, and revoke or suspend a license for up to one year if necessary.

Sen. Terry Stinson, D-Anchorage, has introduced a bill (CSSSSB69 HESS) to require drivers who accumulate six or more points in 12 months, or nine or more points in 24

months to complete a defensive driving course.

If the course is not completed within 45 days from the date the points are assessed, then the driver's license would be suspended or revoked.

While Stinson's bill became mired in debate, the Senate voted 18-2 to approve technical amendments (HB53) to the point system to clarify that drivers would accumulate good points for each 12 months.



Alaska State Legislature

Senate Committee on State Affairs

Vic Fischer, Chairman • Pouch V • Juneau, Alaska 99811 • (907) 465-4954

Official Business

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Sen. Charlie Parr

FROM: Sen. Vic Fischer *Vic*

DATE: May 4, 1981

RE: SB 266 entitled "An Act establishing an official policy of using neutral pronouns in Alaska Statutes; and providing for an effective date."

Language is the most powerful weapon that we work with daily as legislators. How we write our bills, how we communicate with each other and how others perceive what we say; these are the tools with which we shape the future of Alaska. That is why I believe that as Alaskans, as the state that really believes in the freedom of each individual, we must use the language as accurately as possible so that the future generations of Alaskans also respect individual freedoms and are willing to protect them.

Because existing law requires the use of male pronouns, this bill reflects my concern that the laws that we write represent both male and female equality. We must start now to see that drafting language is clear and succinct in regard to the use of pronouns in all the work that we do. We must start now, so that future Alaska law reflects our feeling. Here, I will quote from one of my constituents because it is the essence of some of my feeling: "Language that speaks clearly and fairly of both sexes helps promote equality on every other level."

I hope that you will give SB 266 favorable consideration.

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH Y - STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907-465-3800


LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

May 5, 1981

SUBJECT: SB 266

TO: Senator Patrick M. Rodey
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee

FROM: David T. Walker 
Co-Revisor of Statutes

I believe the language of this bill can be improved upon. When I drafted this bill "sexually explicit pronouns" seemed okay -- now I believe it a little lurid. If you agree, I believe the phrase "pronouns denoting masculine or feminine gender" should be substituted for "sexually explicit pronouns" in the bill. The substitutions should be made at page 1, line 18; page 1, line 27; and page 2, line 5.

In case the committee wishes to report the bill with amendments rather than a committee substitute, I have attached amendments to effect the change.

DTW:ljb

Enclosure

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH Y - STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907-465-3800


LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

May 20, 1981

SUBJECT: CSSB 226 (Judiciary)

TO: Senator Patrick M. Rodey
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
Attn: Kevin Bruce, A.A.

FROM: David T. Walker
Legislative Counsel 

In addition to the changes you requested, I reworded slightly the sentence which was * Sec. 4 and added it to the end of * Sec. 2. The sentence referred to the "policies" established by the Act and since the committee eliminated the policy section it is better to just add it to the permanent law.

Please call me if you have any question or if for any reason this is not what you want.

DTW:ljb

Enclosure