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League of Women Voters of Alaska

STATEMENT TO THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ON CSHB 155 am

April 28, 1981

I am Paula Ziegler, a member of the state board of the League of Women Voters of Alaska; I have the Legislative Process and Procedures portfolio on that board.

The Alaska League, based on our Legislative Process and Procedures position, established in 1979, favors CSHB 155 am in its entirety.

We do have a question concerning the language used at the bottom of page 2 regarding notice provisions. On line 27, the word, "meeting" is used. On line 28, the phrase, "public hearing" is used. Would these be construed to mean the same thing? In our interpretation, "meeting" includes hearings, but the reverse might not necessarily be the case. This is perhaps a small point, but I wanted to point it out to you if you hadn't already noticed it. The League would prefer that the word, "meeting" be used in both instances.

One last point. In the House, some members appeared to feel that in order to have the kind of minutes this bill requires, expert court reporter-type secretaries would have to be hired. Based on nine years of personal experience taking committee minutes in the Senate, I do not believe this would be at all necessary. Simply hiring people with shorthand or proven note-taking skills would be sufficient to get the consistent, standardized record-keeping we are talking about in this bill.

Original sponsor: Rules Committee

Introduced: 3/23/81
Referred: Rules

PROPOSED SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE 5/11/81

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 155 (State Affairs) am

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to legislative^{committee} procedures; and provid-
7 ing for an effective date."

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

9 * Section 1. AS 24 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

10 CHAPTER 27. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE PROCEDURE.

11 Sec. 24.27.010. COMMITTEE PROCEDURE. (a) Each committee of the
12 legislature shall prepare minutes of each meeting of the committee on a
13 standard form prescribed by the legislative council. Committee minutes
14 that reflect action on legislation are part of the legislative history
15 of the legislation. Preparation of the minutes of a committee meeting
16 is the responsibility of the chairman of the committee. The minutes of
17 a committee meeting shall include

18 (1) a statement of the members present at the committee
19 meeting, ~~including a list of the members present at the opening of the~~
20 ~~meeting, the arrival of a member during a meeting, and the time of the~~
21 ~~arrival;~~

22 (2) a list of the name and, if applicable, the affiliation
23 of each witness appearing before the committee;

24 (3) a brief statement of the position of the witness on the
25 subject before the committee;

26 ~~--(4)--proposed amendments presented by a witness appearing~~
27 ~~--before the committee, and~~

28 ⁴
(5) each amendment ~~to a bill~~ formally considered by the committee,
29 the name of the member moving adoption of the amendment, and the ^{action} ~~roll-~~

1 taken the
call-vote on adoption of ~~each~~ proposed amendment.

2 ~~If requested by a committee member,~~

3 (b) ~~X~~ the vote on adoption of each amendment considered by the
4 committee shall be by roll call vote and the "yeas" and "nays" shall be
5 recorded in the minutes.

6 (c) Each committee shall record its meetings electronically under
7 a method prescribed by the legislative council. The recording shall be
8 in a manner which allows for preparation of a verbatim transcript of
9 the meeting. A log of the recording adequate to locate specific tes-
10 timony shall be maintained by the committee.

11 (d) Each committee shall file all minutes and all written mate-
12 rial submitted to the committee in the manner prescribed by the legisla-
13 tive council. ~~All minutes shall be entered and made available as a data~~
14 ~~base on the legislative computer system.~~ All written material submit-
15 ted to the committee shall indicate the name of the person submitting
16 the material and the date of its submission. Committee minutes, tapes
17 and other materials of research value shall be delivered by the commit-
18 tee (at the end of each legislature) to the legislative reference
19 library for appropriate disposition.

20 (e) The chairman of a committee shall maintain a chronological
21 file of minutes which is readily accessible to committee members and
22 the public. Minutes may be corrected or amended by majority vote of
23 the committee, ~~before the end of the legislature during which~~
~~the committee, regardless of the time which has elapsed since the~~
action reflected in the minutes had occurred.

24 (f) In this section "committee" includes a standing, special or
25 interim committee of the legislature or of a house of the legislature.

26 (g) Each committee, except for the Rules Committee for the purpose
27 of the daily calendar, shall ~~make public~~ ^{give public notice of} its meeting schedule agenda at
28 least five days prior to public hearings ^{and other meetings} on legislation, except that
29 the agenda may be amended on shorter notice by majority vote of the

Hearings and other action may be continued without requiring further five day public notice. Public notice is given by providing a copy of the meeting agenda to the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House, who shall post a copy and provide copies to the Legislative Information Office and the press room.

1 committee.

2 * Sec. 2. AS 24.20.060 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

3 (9) to prepare the forms and rules required by AS 24.25.060
4 and AS 24.27.010.

5 * Sec. 3. The legislative council shall prepare the forms and rules
6 required by AS 24.27 enacted in sec. 1 of this Act before the Second Session
7 of the Twelfth Legislature convenes.

8 * Sec. 4. Section 1 of this Act takes effect January 11, 1982.

9 * Sec. 5. Sections 2 and 3 of this Act take effect immediately in ac-
10 cordance with AS 01.10.070(c).

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