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110

STATE OF ALASKA
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date _____, 1983

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: HR 116
 Title: "Act relating to avalanche and fire."
 Sponsor: Rep. M.M. Miller
 Requestor: House State Affairs

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Public Safety
 Program Category Affected: Crime ID
 BRU, Program of Subprogram(s) Affected: Alaska State Troopers

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL		(275.0)				
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC						
TOTAL OPERATING		(275.0)				
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	(275.0)					
FEDERAL FUNDS						
(OTHER (Specify Source))						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

III. SOURCE OF FUNDS TO OFFSET FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL:

IV. ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page for any Analysis

(See attached)

Prepared By: Michael Orelove

Phone: 465-4349

Division: Administrative Services

Date: 5-13-83

Approved by Commissioner: [Signature]

Date: 5/12/83

Department: Public Safety

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3/8/83

HB 110

ANALYSIS

The Department of Public Safety FY 84 Operating Budget contains 275.0 for the Avalanche Warning System which should be transferred to the Department of Natural Resources if the function is transferred to the Department of Natural Resources.

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: HB110
 Title: Avalanche and Fire Weather
 Sponsor: M.M. Miller
 Requestor: House State Affairs Ct.

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: _____
 Program Category Affected: _____
 BRU, Program of Subprogram(s) Affected: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL		275.0	286.0	297.0	309.0	321.0
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	275.0	286.0	297.0	309.0	321.0
CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	275.0	286.0	297.0	309.0	321.0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify Source)						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

III. SOURCE OF FUNDS TO OFFSET FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL:

Would transfer existing program from Department of Public Safety to Department of Natural Resources.

IV. ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page for any Analysis

Prepared By: Ned Farquhar NF Phone: 465-2400
 Division: Commissioner's Office Date: 17 May 1983
 Approved by Commissioner: Wmms D. Amel Date: 17 May 1983
 Department: Natural Resources

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NATIONAL SKI PATROL SYSTEM, INC.
Alaska Division

P.O. Box 432
Douglas, Alaska 99824

May 17, 1983

Mr. Chairman and Members of the
House State Affairs Committee:

My name is Bob Janes and I am testifying for the National Ski Patrol System in Alaska, in support of HB 110 which would amend certain portions of the Alaska Avalanche Warning System.

NSPS in Alaska is comprised of more than 350 registered patrollers who provide voluntary highly skilled services for the general safety and well being of the skiing public. This organization gave strong support toward establishing the existing system, which from the state participation standpoint, became a state law effective July 1, 1980.

We believe the proposed operational change for transferring responsibility for representing the state from the Department of Public Safety to another state agency with closer on-the-ground applications of the system would result in a more efficient operation.

We have just learned today that the Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center (AEIDC), University of Alaska, is interested in and willing to take on the lead responsibility for the state. We also understand this is agreeable with the Department of Natural Resources.

The National Ski Patrol System in Alaska therefore urges passage of HB 110 as written, except for Sec 18.76.010 substitute the Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center, University of Alaska, for the Department of Natural Resources. This direction would be logical, since AEIDC currently supervises and directs the work of professional meteorologists operating from the Avalanche Forecast Center in Anchorage.

Thank you for your time. I would be pleased to answer any questions.



Bob Janes
Legislative Advisor, NSPS Alaska Division

May 6, 1983

Representative Mitch Abood, Chairman
House State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Representative Albert P. Adams, Chairman
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature

Dear Representative _____

This letter is in support of the enclosed House Bill No. 110, sponsored and introduced in the present session on 1/24/83 by Representative Mike Miller. It has been referred to State Affairs and Finance, where it now sits.

This bill is an amendment to legislation passed in 1979 pertaining to an avalanche warning system for Alaska. It is primarily a housekeeping measure, with word changes that recognize the scientific forecasting value of the system rather than implying scare tactics through emphasizing warnings. However, should extreme avalanche danger develop, then of course appropriate warnings would be disseminated to the public. It also recognizes the associated value of the fire weather forecasting part of the overall system, and the nomenclature of the project therefore becomes the Alaska Avalanche and Fire Weather Forecasting System (AA/FWFS).


Probably the most significant change in the statute is a proposed shifting of responsibility from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Natural Resources, in representing the state for operation of the system. Experience to date has shown this to be a more practical approach, since DNR now plays the major role in conducting the public education and prevention aspects of the program. Technical avalanche awareness workshops are offered throughout the state by DNR. In other words, DNR is closer to an on-the-ground application in a working mode than is DPS. By prior agreement between the two Departments, this change appeared to be needed. The change should therefore not meet with any opposition, from the standpoint of the Departments involved.

While employed by the U.S. Forest Service, I was personally helping to formulate the original legislation which was sponsored by Representative Mike Miller to get the system going on a statewide basis. Although I have recently retired from that agency, I still maintain a personal interest in the AA/FWFS for its most effective operation.

I urge you to schedule this bill on the calendar at the earliest possible time, to enable possible passage during the current session. In this way, DNR would be in a position to followup with regular program planning and a budgetary request for Fiscal Year 1985. DPS has already submitted a budget request for Fiscal Year 1984 which is presently under routine review. This bill therefore does not

involve any new fiscal impacts from the standpoint of any needed special supplemental appropriations.

Sincerely,


Robert C. Jones

Enclosure

cc: Representative Mike Miller
House State Affairs Committee

Representative Jim Duncan
House Finance Committee

Wallace Watts, USFS Anchorage
Program Director AA/FWFS

Gary Morrison, USFS Juneau
Division of Recreation