

COMMITTEE REPORT
HOUSE

(11)

FURTHER:

2/1/85

Date: 2-6-85

The Committee on FINANCE has had HB 1

"An Act authorizing the ferry system to transport certain items for charitable organizations without charge."

under consideration and recommends:

- do pass do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for _____ same title
 new title
- and recommends No Recommendation
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without recommendation Zero Fiscal Note Attached
- referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

No Rec - [Signature]

No Rec Fat [Signature]

No Rec Rich [Signature]

No Rec [Signature]

[Signature]

CHAIRMAN

Offered: 2/1/85
Referred: Finance

Original sponsors: M.M.Miller, Goll,
Sund and Duncan

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 1 (Transportation)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION
5 A BILL
6 For an Act entitled: "An Act authorizing the ferry system to transport
7 certain items without charge."
8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
9 * Section 1. AS 19.65 is amended by adding new sections to read:
10 Sec. 19.65.030. TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS FOR CHARITABLE ORGANIZA-
11 TIONS. (a) To the extent that unsold space is available, the commis-
12 sioner of transportation and public facilities may provide to au-
13 thorized nonprofit charitable organizations free transportation of
14 vans and vehicles on Alaska marine highway system vessels between
15 Alaska ports only. A van or vehicle transported under this section
16 may contain only clothing and household furnishings that are to be
17 distributed without charge to needy individuals and families.
18 (b) The commissioner shall determine which organizations are
19 authorized to receive free transportation services under (a) of this
20 section and shall maintain a list of those organizations. Authoriza-
21 tion is limited to organizations that have been in existence at least
22 three years. The commissioner may establish additional criteria for
23 authorization. A nonprofit charitable organization not authorized
24 under this subsection may submit a written request for authorization.
25 The request shall include the organization's justification for au-
26 thorization.
27 (c) An organization may lose its authorization for failing to
28 comply with the provisions of this section or regulations adopted
29 under this section.

1 Sec. 19.65.040. EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS. The commis-
2 sioner of transportation and public facilities may provide for the
3 free transportation of goods on Alaska marine highway system vessels
4 during an emergency declared by the governor.

5 * Sec. 2. AS 19.65.030 is repealed three years after the effective date
6 of this Act.

STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: _____

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: CSHB 1
Title: Transportation of goods for Charitable Organizations

Sponsor: M. Miller, Goli, Sund & Duncan
Requestor: _____
Date of Request: _____

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Dent. of Transp. & P.F.
Program Category Affected: Transportation

BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS						
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL						
----------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TEMPORARY	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page if necessary

It is assumed that those "Charitable Organizations" requesting free transportation for a van or vehicle containing clothing and household goods for distribution to needy persons certify this need by formal written request and that free passage will be granted by pass with no liability of the State to those organizations.

* - Historical information not available to calculate revenue loss.

Prepared By: Joe D. Camp, Deputy Commissioner

Phone: 465-3950

Division: Alaska Marine Highway System

Date: 01/18/85

Approved by Commissioner: _____
Agency: DOT&PF

Date: 01/21/85

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Interested Agency(ies)

SECTION ANALYSIS: HB 1

SECTION 1: Amends AS 19.65 (Highways and Ferries) by adding new sections -- AS 19.65.30 TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS FOR CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS; and AS 19.65.040 EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS.

Sec. 19.65.030. TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS FOR CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS. This section has three subsections.

Subsection (a) (Page 1, lines 11-17): Provides that the commissioner of transportation and public facilities may provide free transportation of vans and vehicles aboard state ferries to charitable nonprofit organizations to the extent that unsold space is available. Vehicles transported under this section may contain only clothing and household furnishings that are to be distributed free to needy individuals.

Subsection (b) (Page 1, lines 18-26): Provides that the commissioner shall decide which organizations may be eligible for free transportation under (a) and maintain a list of those organizations. The section defines that only organizations which have been in existence for at least three years are eligible to apply for authorization, and that the commissioner may establish other criteria for authorization. Nonprofit charitable organizations not on the authorization list may submit a written request for authorization; that request must include the organization's justification for being authorized to transport charitable goods.

Subsection (c) (Page 1, lines 27-29) is intended to minimize any potential for abuse of this service, by providing that an organization may lose authorization for failing to comply with the provisions of (a) and (b) or with administrative regulations adopted to implement this section.

Sec. 19.65.040. EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS. This section is intended authorize the ferry system to transport goods free of charge during an emergency declared by the governor.

SECTION 2: This is a sunset provision, repealing Sec. 19.65.030 only, three years after this legislation were to take effect. This requires the authorization to transport goods for charitable organizations to come back before the legislature to continue; this will enable the legislature to judge the effectiveness of the provision.

There is no effective date section.

Alaska State Legislature



House of Representatives House Judiciary Committee

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-4990

MEMO: Feb. 4, 1985.

TO: Hon. Al Adams
Chairman, House Finance Committee

FROM: Rep. M. Mike Miller

RE: HB 1/authorizing ferry system to transport certain items
without charge

You currently have in your committee House Bill 1, which would allow the Alaska Marine Highway System to authorize certain nonprofit charitable organizations to transport clothing and household goods at no charge on state ferries, on a space-available basis, if those goods are intended for free distribution to the needy.

Under provisions of the bill, transportation of vans or automobiles containing such goods would be free of charge to the charitable organizations on a space available basis, to the extent that unsold space is available. To control the use, as well as potential abuse, of this service, the commissioner of transportation and public facilities is authorized to maintain a list of eligible organizations as well as to establish criteria which must be met to receive authorization. I anticipate no fiscal impact as a result of this legislation.

The bill came about as a result of consultation with the Salvation Army, which provides charitable contributions of clothing and household goods to outlying communities now. Currently, the Salvation Army transports goods only when it can make arrangements with individuals who are traveling or transporting vehicles to outlying communities. This means, first of all, that such individuals must be found who have space available and who are willing to take the goods. The ferry system will not accept packages or containers of goods unaccompanied by passengers, and vehicle transportation is prohibitively expensive to an organization such as the Salvation Army. The bill would allow occasional vans or carloads of goods to be transported on a planned basis to needy people in outlying communities.

The bill further allows the ferry system, through the commissioner of DOT/PF, to authorize emergency free transportation of goods during emergency situations. This section of the bill results from the recent Thanksgiving Day storm which devastated the community of Tenekee Springs. The ferry system did provide free transportation of disaster relief goods -- food, clothing and such -- following that declared emergency; however, they found in the process that they have no statutory authorization to do so. This section would establish that authorization.

Attached is a section analysis of HB 1.

If you have any further questions, please contact me personally, or have your staff contact Bob Speed of my office.

HB 1: An Act authorizing the ferry system to transport certain items for charitable organizations without charge.

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is opposed to the transport of items for charitable organizations without charge. The multitude of charitable organizations in the state would inundate the Alaska Marine Highway with requests. According to Department of Labor statistics, there are 892 potential charitable organizations in the State. The investigation and processing of these requests would require administrative time that could evolve into a requirement for additional personnel.

Small communities usually have a low economic base therefore high ratio of needy individuals and families. With many it is a way of life preferred over urban dwelling. The free carriage of these items could have a definite effect on the economy of a small community and would compete with private industry both in transportation and local businesses.

Operationally it is not feasible to carry vans on a space available basis. Vans are required to be loaded prior to other vehicles.

However we believe that HB 1 should be amended to provide this assistance to needy individuals in communities that have been declared a disaster area by the Governor.

Position on CS per Camp: 1/29/85
Still opposed to concept of bill but
prefer CS to original bill.

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION
STANDING COMMITTEE
January 22, 1985
7:02 a.m.

Members Present: Representative Cato, Chairman
Representative Davis, Vice-Chairman
Representative Shultz
Representative Herrmann
Representative Furnace
Representative Pignalberi
Representative Marrou

Members Absent: None

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HB 1 "An Act authorizing the ferry system to transport certain items for charitable organizations without charge." Sponsored by Representative Mike M. Miller.

WITNESS REGISTER

Representative Mike M. Miller
House of Representatives
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
Telephone: 465-4990

Joe D. Camp, Deputy Commissioner
Alaska Marine Highway System
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
1591 Glacier Avenue
Juneau, Alaska 99811
Mail Stop: 2505
Telephone: 465-3955

Lieutenant Bradford Russell
The Salvation Army
6044 Pine Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

PREVIOUS ACTION

01/14/85 Read the first time and referred to the Transportation, Finance, and Rules Committees.

ACTION NARRATIVE

Tape 1
Side 1
Recording Number
003

Chairman Cato called the meeting to order at 7:02 a.m. and noted for the record, the following members present: Representatives Davis, Shultz, Herrmann, and Marrou. She brought before the committee House Bill 1 sponsored by Representatives Miller, Goll, Sund, and Duncan. She then asked Representative Miller to come before the committee and to speak about his bill.

025 Representative Miller explained that his bill addresses the free transportation of goods used for charitable purposes on the Alaska Marine Highway System. He emphasized that the goods would only be transported on the ferry system on a space available basis and stressed that this bill is limited to intra-Alaska transportation.

128 Chairman Cato asked if this applied solely to clothing and household furnishings and excluded the transportation of food. Representative Miller stated that only clothing and household furnishings could be transported and NOT food.

145 Representative Marrou asked how to prevent the potential abuses of this bill. Representative Miller responded that this bill does not make its enactment mandatory. The bill says the commissioner of Department of Transportation and Public Facilities "may" provide free transportation to charitable organizations. The commissioner has the authority to define.

177 Chairman Cato noted for the record that Representative Pignalberi has joined the committee some time ago.

179 Representative Davis expressed his fear of abuses by officers of charities. He also asked if the bill would support a chain of outlet stores in Southeast Alaska.

200 Representative Miller said that the bill does not apply to re-sale items. He suggested amending the bill by adding "free" to ensure that only free good would be transported. He stressed, again, that the word, "may" allows the commissioner to police abuses.

245 Representative Herrmann asked why the goods must be transported by van. Representative Miller explained that the Marine Highway System does not transport freight unless it is on a vehicle.

- 264 Chairman Cato noted for the record that Representative Furnace joined the committee some time ago.
- 266 Representative Marrou again expressed his fear of the bill being abused and suggested adding the word "free" in line 17 between the words "distributed" and "to." He also suggested inserting the word "unsold" to line 12 between the words "that" and "space."
- 278 Representative Furnace asked if the Marine Highway System has some authority now to move charitable goods. Representative Miller said that it does not except in cases of emergency.
- 311 Representative Davis commented on a case where a business was affected economically by a charitable organization.
- 336 Representative Furnace stated that the bill is plain as it is and the Salvation Army good.
- 352 Chairman Cato called the next witness--Lieutenant Lieutenant Russell, the local officer of the Salvation Army and had him state his name for the record.
- 360 Lieutenant Russell noted that the Salvation Army in Juneau and other larger communities has a surplus of goods; whereas, in smaller communities, such a condition does not exist. The bill addresses a way to balance the surplus of goods with needy, out-lying communities.
- 368 Representative Shultz asked if the Salvation Army had tried using the U.S. Coast Guard to transport goods. Lieutenant Russell that although the Anchorage Air Force Reserve helps out during Christmas, it and the Coast Guard cannot be expected to transport charitable goods on a regular basis.
- 382 Representative Furnace asked how often would the Salvation Army use the ferry system. Lieutenant Russell said that he would not expect it to be too often--perhaps two to three ships per community per year. He also listed the communities to which the Salvation Army provides services: Angoon, Haines, Sitka, Ketchikan, Kake, Wrangell, Hoonah, and Petersburg. The Salvation Army also works with churches and other charitable organizations.
- 401 Representative Davis asked if the Salvation Army would be using the Marine Highway System to restock stores. Lieutenant Russell stated that in large communities

there are thrift stores. In small communities there are not. In those communities the Salvation Army ships goods used only for distribution.

424

Chairman Cato called to the table Joe Camp, Deputy Commissioner of the Alaska Marine Highway System, and asked him to state his name for the record.

427

Mr. Camp expressed the Department of Transportation's opposition to the bill. If it were to apply strictly to the Salvation Army, he would have no objection. He state that there are 892 charitable organizations which would qualify. He then cited abuses in free transportation now being offered by the Marine Highway System.

486

Mr. Camp commented on the zero fiscal note. The word "may" is not a panacea against abuses.

501

Mr. Camp asserted that the bill would create an inconvenience in loading. Currently, vans are loaded first. Not until all vehicles are loaded is it known whether or not the ship is full--when it is too inconvenient to load vans.

Mr. Camp does not object to amending the bill to allow for free transportation during times of emergencies. He recalled how the Marine Highway System came to the aide to Tenakee during the Thanksgiving 1984 disaster.

536

Representative Furnace recommended the following amendments:

1) Have the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities develop a list of authorized organizations in order to narrow the number of charities which could use the system for free.

2) Additional charitable organizations must petition the commissioner with written justification to be admitted to that list.

3) Violators or abusers of the bill would be excluded from the list.

4) Declare emergencies--let the Marine Highway System transport goods for free during times of emergencies.

547

Mr. Camp thought that the bill with Representative Furnace's recommendations would be more acceptable than what is offered now.

550

Representative Furnace suggested getting with the sponsor of the bill in order to make changes.

565 Representative Pignalberi addressed the issue of loading vans onto the ferry and stated that, really, loading is not an insurmountable problem.

604 Representative Marrou suggested charging a fifty percent discount to charitable organizations which would use the Marine Highway System to transport charitable goods. Mr. Camp said that that may not prevent abuses, but he had no objections to that idea.

On the issue of loading, Mr. Camp said that 60% to 70% of the time, the Marine Highway System would know whether or not it could load the van.

615 Representative Davis asked Mr. Camp what abuses he could foresee with this bill. He responded that he feared that the Marine Highway System would become a free-distribution center and that loading times would be increased. He was also concerned about personal abuses such as someone affiliating himself with a church, say, and use the system to transport personal goods for free.

644 Representative Shultz: "Could you end up with a non-profit that is actually state funded transporting goods on the ferry system?"

Mr. Camp: "Charitable, no, probably." He then gave two examples where the Marine Highway System had transported goods for the Arts Council and for a private television firm which was making a public services document.

665 Representative Pignalberi posited limiting use of free ferry transport to the United Way organization.

Tape 1
Side 2
Recording Number
003

Representative Miller returned to the table to address what had been said. He refuted the issues of free ferry use by senior citizens noting that those who do not have a ferry ticket should not be allowed to make reservations for automobile transport and cabin use. He also took point on what Mr. Camp had said on the 892 organizations who may use the system saying that it was up to the commissioner to decide who may use the system under the terms of this bill. He also doubted that this bill would cause too much time to perform but only a little extra time.

On the issue of loading vans first, he said that this doesn't have to be done and went on to say that the

Marine Highway System is "inventing problems that don't need to exist." He also refuted the notion that the Marine Highway System would become a "major distribution network."

102

Representative Miller agreed with Representative Furnace's recommendations and vehemently opposes the notion of giving a 50% discount to charitable organizations.

125

Representative Shultz wanted to know if wealthier, charitable organizations which well-off enough to exchange good would be allowed to use the ferry system. Representative Miller replied that trade is a system of bartering and thus, they would not be eligible to use the ferry system under the terms of this bill.

205

Representative Miller pointed out that, unlike the Salvation Army, churches do not belong to the United Way. He further pointed out that they would be excluded if the free ferry transport were restricted to organizations belonging to the United Way.

He reiterated that the bill allows the commissioner to draw up the list of charitable organizations which could use the ferries under the terms of this bill and that the commissioner would have the power to define the qualifications for belonging to the list.

244

Chairman Cato suggested that the committee staff join Representatives Miller, Furnace, and anyone else who would like to contribute to fine tuning the bill. Representative Furnace made the motion that this be done. Chairman Cato asked if there were any objections. Being none, so ordered.

254

Chairman Cato adjourned the meeting at 8:02.

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION
STANDING COMMITTEE
January 31, 1985
7:00 a.m.

Members Present: Representative Bette Cato, Chairman
Representative Mike Davis, Vice-Chairman
Representative Dick Shultz
Representative Adelheid Herrmann
Representative Andre Marrou

Members Absent: Representative Walt Furnace
Representative Marco Pignalberi

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HB 1 "An Act authorizing the ferry system to transport
certain items for charitable organizations without charge."

WITNESS REGISTER

Representative Mike M. Miller
House of Representative
Pouch V
Juneau, AK 99811
Telephone: (907) 465-4990
Position Statement: Supported the Committee Substitute for HB 1

Joe Camp
Deputy Commissioner
Alaska Marine Highway System
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Pouch Z
Juneau, AK 99811
Telephone: (907) 465-3950
Position Statement: Opposed bill but approved the amendments in the
Committee Substitute

Susan Fleischhauer
Legislative Liaison
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Pouch Z
Juneau, AK 99811
Telephone: (907) 465-3900
Position Statement: Observer

PREVIOUS ACTION

HB 1 Please refer to the House Transportation Committee
Minutes of 01/22/85.

ACTION NARRATIVE

Tape 1

Side 1

Recording

Number 004 Chairman Cato called the meeting to order at 7:05 and noted for the record the following members present: Representative Davis, Representative Shultz, Representative Herrmann, Representative Marrou, and Representative Cato. She noted for the record that Representative Furnace was unable to attend today's meeting. She brought before the committee Committee Substitute for House Bill 1 entitled, "An Act authorizing the ferry system to transport certain items without charge." She then introduced and called to the table the sponsor of the original bill, Representative Mike M. Miller.

Number 026 Representative Miller thanked the chairman for the speedy manner in which the committee had addressed this bill. He told the committee that he had looked at the Committee Substitute for House Bill 1 and said that it "meets everything that I wanted to see in the bill. It meets all the criteria that were established to the committee." He also agreed with the sunset clause which was added to the bill. He ended by saying, "I think your staff did an admirable job on the committee substitute, and I would endorse it."

Number 054 Representative Cato thanked him for the compliment and then called on Deputy Commissioner Joe Camp to comment on the Committee Substitute. He did not wish to testify, so Representative Cato asked the committee members if they had any questions.

Number 058 Representative Davis also said that the Committee Substitute covered the committee's concerns and then asked Mr. Camp whether some of his fears had been alleviated by the substitute. Mr. Camp said he thought so.

Number 066 Representative Shultz mentioned that the last time Mr. Camp was before the committee, he opposed the bill because it had "opened the door to all kinds of things." He wanted to know if "that door," or those loopholes, had been addressed by the substitute. Mr. Camp said, "Basically, the department is still opposed to it, but this [the Committee Substitute] does close some of the loopholes." He feared that the bill has the potential for being abused.

Number 082 Representative Davis commented that the phrase, "[the commissioner] may establish additional criteria for authorization" would enable the department to close any loopholes which may arise.

Number 094 Representative Cato asked if there were any more question.

Number 108 Representative Davis moved to adopt Committee Substitute for House Bill 1. Representative Cato asked if there were any objections. Being none, she asked for a motion to move the bill out of committee.

Number 116 Representative Davis moved to pass the Committee Substitute for House Bill 1 and its fiscal note out of committee with individual

recommendations. Representative Cato asked if there were any objections. Being none, so ordered.

Number 135 Representative Marrou asked for clarification on the committee report, on individual recommendations, and on protocol for quorums.

Number 190 Representative Cato adjourned the meeting at 7:15.

Offered: 2/1/85
Referred: Finance

Original sponsors: M.M.Miller, Goll,
Sund and Duncan

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 1 (Transportation)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act authorizing the ferry system to transport
7 certain items without charge."

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

9 * Section 1. AS 19.65 is amended by adding new sections to read:

10 Sec. 19.65.030. TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS FOR CHARITABLE ORGANIZA-
11 TIONS. (a) To the extent that unsold space is available, the commis-
12 sioner of transportation and public facilities may provide to au-
13 thorized nonprofit charitable organizations free transportation of
14 vans and vehicles on Alaska marine highway system vessels between
15 Alaska ports only. A van or vehicle transported under this section
16 may contain only clothing and household furnishings that are to be
17 distributed without charge to needy individuals and families.

18 (b) The commissioner shall determine which organizations are
19 authorized to receive free transportation services under (a) of this
20 section and shall maintain a list of those organizations. Authoriza-
21 tion is limited to organizations that have been in existence at least
22 three years. The commissioner may establish additional criteria for
23 authorization. A nonprofit charitable organization not authorized
24 under this subsection may submit a written request for authorization.
25 The request shall include the organization's justification for au-
26 thorization.

27 (c) An organization may lose its authorization for failing to
28 comply with the provisions of this section or regulations adopted
29 under this section.

1 Sec. 19.65.040. EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS. The commis-
2 sioner of transportation and public facilities may provide for the
3 free transportation of goods on Alaska marine highway system vessels
4 during an emergency declared by the governor.

5 * Sec. 2. AS 19.65.030 is repealed three years after the effective date
6 of this Act.

Introduced: 1/14/85
Referred: Transportation and
Finance

BY M.M.MILLER, GOLL, SUND AND
DUNCAN

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 1

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act authorizing the ferry system to transport
7 certain items for charitable organizations without
8 charge."

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

10 * Section 1. AS 19.65 is amended by adding a new section to read:

11 Sec. 19.65.030. TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS FOR CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS.
12 To the extent that space is available, the commissioner of
13 transportation and public facilities may provide to nonprofit charita-
14 ble organizations free transportation of vans and vehicles on Alaska
15 marine highway system vessels. A van or vehicle transported under
16 this section may contain only clothing and household furnishings that
17 are to be distributed to needy individuals and families.