

COMMITTEE REPORT
SENATE

FURTHER: FINANCE

1/14/85

Date February 7, 1985

Mr. President

The Committee on JUDICIARY considered SB 43
establishing a Legislative Research Agency; efd.

and (a majority of the committee) (the committee) reports it back with the following recommendations:

- do pass
- do pass with attached amendment(s)
- replace with/or adopt CS for Senate Bill No. 43 (Judiciary)
- new title
- same title and recommends _____
- and attached a "LETTER OF INTENT" NEW FISCAL NOTE
- reports it back without recommendation
- recommends referral to _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

3 votes
HT Kelly

Chairman
DO PASS
Chairman recommendation

ANALYSIS FOR SENATE BILL 43

An Act establishing a Legislative Research Agency Division within the Legislative Affairs Agency

This bill establishes a Legislative Research Agency to provide "non-partisan and objective research" to both the House and the Senate.

Under current policy, the House Research Agency provides this support to the House of Representatives and the Senate Advisory Council provides this support to the Senate. The Rural Research Agency provides it to either body.

Presumably, this bill would combine the efforts all three organizations into one body.

Enclosed in your packet is a memo from the Representative Fuller, Chairman of the Legislative Council, which outlines the creation of a single Research Agency. Essentially, current House Research staff would be retained and Senate Advisory staff terminated. However, they could apply for the new positions created in the Legislative Research Agency.

The fiscal note from the Legislative Affairs Agency estimates a savings of \$10,800 in FY 85 and \$93,800 in FY 86 because the Senate Advisory Council Executive Director position is currently vacant and would remain so. Further savings would depend upon the size and composition of the resulting staff which would have to be determined by the Leadership.

As originally introduced, Senate Bill 43 also created a permanent interim committee to set policies for the Legislative Research Agency. That committee would consist of the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Minority Leaders of each body and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Legislative Council. That section was deleted in the Judiciary CS.

COMMITTEE REPORT
SENATE

FURTHER:

7/3/85

Date 4/2/85

Mr. President

The Committee on FINANCE considered SB 43

Establishing a Legislative Research Agency, etc.

and (a majority of the committee) (the committee) reports it back with the following recommendations:

- do pass
- do pass with attached amendment(s)
- replace with/or adopt CS for SB 43 (new)
- new title
- same title and recommends "Leg. Res."
- and attached a "LETTER OF INTENT" NEW FISCAL NOTE
- reports it back without recommendation (zero from finance)
- recommends referral to _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

R. L. ...

...

Chairman _____

Chairman recommendation _____

STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: 4/4/85

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: CSSB 43 (Jud
 Title: Establishing a
 Legislative Research Agency; efd.
 Sponsor: Senator Rodey
 Requestor: Senate Finance Committee
 Date of Request: 4/4/85

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Legislative Affairs Agency
 Program Category Affected: _____
 BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: General Government
 Senate Advisory Council
 House Research Agency

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS						
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		-0-				

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

REVENUE						
----------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		-0-				
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page if necessary

Prepared By: Jan Faiks, Co-chairman *Jan* Phone: 465-4523
 Division: Senate Finance Committee Date: 4/4/85

Approved by Commissioner: _____ Date: _____
 Agency: _____

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):
 Legislative Finance
 Legislative Sponsor
 Requestor
 Office of Management and Budget
 Impacted Agency(ies)

7/1/84

Offered: 2/8/85
Referred: Finance

Original sponsors: Rodey, Sturgulewski,
V.Fischer, et al

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 43 (Judiciary)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION
5 A BILL
6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing a Legislative Research Division
7 within the Legislative Affairs Agency; and providing
8 for an effective date."
9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
10 * Section 1. AS 24.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:
11 Sec. 24.20.071. LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH DIVISION. There is estab-
12 lished within the Legislative Affairs Agency a permanent research
13 staff with a research director, to be known as the Legislative Re-
14 search Division. The establishment of the agency recognizes the need
15 for nonpartisan, objective research to support the legislature in its
16 decision making. The research director is appointed by the Executive
17 Director of the Agency.
18 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-
19 10.070(c).

STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: _____

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: SB No. 43
Title: An Act establishing a Legislative Research Agency, eff. date
Sponsor: Senator Patrick Rodey
Requestor: Senator Patrick Rodey
Date of Request: 1/21/85

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Legislative Affairs
Program Category Affected: General Government
BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: Senate Advisory Council
House Research Agency

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES	<42.8>	<85.8>				
200 TRAVEL	-0-	<18.0>				
300 CONTRACTUAL	20.0	10.0				
400 SUPPLIES	-0-	-0-				
500 EQUIPMENT	12.0	-0-				
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS						
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	<10.8>	<93.8>				
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	<10.8>	<93.8>				
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page if necessary

If a Legislative Research Agency is formed by merging the existing House Research Agency and the Senate Advisory Council, there would be a cost savings of approximately \$10.8 in FY 85 and \$93.8 in FY 86. The director position is currently vacant at Senate Advisory Council. If the position remains vacant after the merger, it accounts for the cost savings in personal services. If other vacancies occur in personal services, this would mean additional savings or less funding necessary for FY 86. Costs in the merger would be for moving, office space consolidation, and a new phone system.

Prepared By: Pamela A. Calhoun, Manager Phone: 465-3850
Division: Administrative Services Date: 1/22/85

Approved by Dep. Exec. Director: Don Fisher Date: 1/22/85
Agency: Legislative Affairs Agency

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

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

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

BY RODEY, STURGULEWSKI,
V.FISCHER, KELLY, FAIKS,
JOSEPHSON AND KERTTULA

1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE BILL NO. 43

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing a Legislative Research Agency;
7 and providing for an effective date."

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

9 * Section 1. AS 24.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

10 ARTICLE 5. LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH AGENCY.

11 Sec. 24.20.575. LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH AGENCY. (a) There is
12 established a permanent research staff with a research director, to be
13 known as the Legislative Research Agency. The establishment of the
14 agency recognizes the need for nonpartisan, objective research to
15 support the legislature in its decision making.

16 (b) A permanent interim committee is established to set policies
17 for the agency. The committee consists of the president of the
18 senate, the speaker of the house, the minority leader of the senate,
19 the minority leader of the house, and the chair and vice-chair of the
20 Legislative Council. If a presiding officer is chair or vice-chair of
21 the Legislative Council, another member of the Legislative Council
22 from that house shall be appointed by the presiding officer as a
23 member of the committee.

24 (c) The director and members of the professional and clerical
25 staff may not join or support a partisan political organization. This
26 prohibition does not prevent the director or members of the staff from
27 joining social organizations, expressing private opinion, registering
28 as to party, or voting.

29 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with

1 AS 01.10.070(c).



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Malford
Senate Majority Leader

FROM: Rep. Jack Fuller
Chairman, Legislative Council

DATE: January 11, 1985

Attached is the proposal for a joint House and Senate Research Agency which we discussed.

Please look it over at your convenience. If the proposal meets with the approval of the Senate governing body, I would be happy to arrange a joint meeting for further discussion.

Rep. Fuller's Proposal

Proposal for Creation of a Legislative Research Agency

The creation of a single research agency to serve both houses of the Alaska Legislature would involve three major changes from the current situation in which separate agencies serve the House and Senate. The changes would affect the House Research Agency in the following ways:

- the agency would be known as the Legislative Research Agency;
- the governing body of the agency would be expanded to include the President of the Senate, the Senate Minority Leader and the ranking Senate member of the Legislative Council; and
- the agency would accept requests from Senators as well as from members of the House of Representatives.

The Legislative Research Agency would begin operations under the following conditions:

- all staff of the House Research Agency would be retained in their current positions;
- additional staff would be added at the discretion of the director of the agency;
- staff of the Senate Advisory Council would be encouraged to apply for positions with the Legislative Research Agency, but would be subject to the same recruitment process as applies to the general public;
- research policies applicable to the House Research Agency would remain in effect except for language to reflect the expansion of services to Senators (see attached);
- the director of the agency would report to the governing body of the agency;
- cooperation with the Legislative Finance and Legal Services Divisions of the Legislative Affairs Agency would be encouraged; and
- the current working arrangements (concerning payroll, accounting and other administrative functions) with the Legislative Affairs Agency would remain in effect.

January 10, 1985

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RESEARCH AGENCY

The House of Representatives Research Agency performs factual and policy-oriented research upon the request of members of the House. A "first come, first served" rule is the guiding principle in handling research requests. Among the services available are:

- Issue analysis providing interstate comparisons, background and/or other information on specific topics;
- Research support to legislative committees and personal staff (including access to the agency's library);
- Critiques of reports, studies and bills affecting public policy and programs;
- Program evaluation of State and State-supported programs;
- Tracking of legislation, including historical searches on past legislative action and reports on the implementation of laws passed;
- Analysis of federal legislation and regulations affecting Alaska; and
- Formal solicitation and evaluation of contract proposals and monitoring of contractual research.

In addition to the above services, representatives may submit proposals for major research projects. Work on projects authorized by the agency's governing committee is performed between legislative sessions.

All work performed by the agency is undertaken upon the request of representatives and not upon the agency's initiative. Work assignments are made by the agency director; however, requests may be submitted orally or in writing to any member of the staff. The names of requesting legislators are not divulged without the legislator's prior approval. Research, when completed, is not made public until the requesting legislator authorizes its release.

The nonpartisan agency staff consists of a director, eight legislative analysts, an administrative officer and a secretary. Agency policy is set by the director in consultation with the governing committee. The committee is composed of the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House and the ranking House member of the Legislative Council.

August 1984

HOUSE RESEARCH AGENCY
RESEARCH POLICIES

The House Research Agency will perform research only upon the request of members of the House of Representatives [or upon the recommendation of the director and the approval of the governing committee.] Research requests will be addressed in order of the sequence of their receipt.

Research requests that the Agency may not accept are:

- research directly related to a legislator's personal business;
- research that directly benefits a legislator's campaign for re-election, e.g., analysis of an opponent's voting record or prior years' voting returns. However, research that may be indirectly related to a campaign, such as evaluation of a reapportionment plan or analysis of issues that arise during a campaign may be performed; and
- research that entails investigations into a citizen's personal life.

A legislator who requests research seeming to meet the criteria above and is refused by the Agency director may appeal the director's decision to the governing committee.

Research requests that may not be accepted without the approval of the governing committee include:

- research that, if performed, would constitute a significant variance from the "first come, first served" rule; and
- research that would require a significant percentage of total staff time or funding available during a given calendar period, in the director's judgment.

All requests taken or refused and all research performed by the Agency will be treated confidentially within the Agency with the following exceptions:

- the requesting legislator explicitly gives permission to use his name in soliciting information or to release the research product prepared for him; and
- agency research staff seek assistance on or refer requests to the Legislative Affairs Agency, Division of Legal Services, or to the Legislative Finance or Audit Divisions, which are also bound by confidentiality rules comparable to those of the House Research Agency. Conversely, any legislative request referred by these agencies to the House Research Agency will be treated confidentially.

In addition to the name of the requesting legislator, the intended use of the research and factors that prompted the request (e.g., a constituent's letter) may not be revealed. In some instances, the nature of the research request itself may not be revealed in soliciting information to fulfill the request, if such confidentiality is warranted, in the director's or requesting legislator's judgment.

In the event that two or more similar requests for research are taken, Agency staff will ask permission of each requesting legislator to share his name and request with the other requesters for purposes of consolidation of the research effort and expedited transmittal of the research to all requesting legislators.

Gross violations by staff of the confidentiality rules constitute cause for termination.

Aggregated statistics of research requests may be released to the public.

January 1982