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BILL NO: House Bill 516

DATE: February 19, 1988

TITLE: An act relating to
hazardous materials and
hazardous wastes.

CONTACT: Gordon Brunton
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This bill amends various sections of AS 18.70.310 and AS 29.35.500 -- 29.35.520 which deal with the reporting and placarding of hazardous materials and hazardous wastes.

Since passage of Ch. 108 SLA 1986, most municipalities have expressed an intent to use the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 704 M system. The NFPA placard system is most familiar to the fire service and provides more information to emergency first responders than the US DOT system, such as toxicity (health), reactivity, and flammability information.

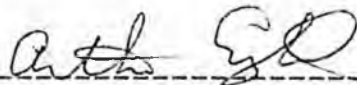
Current law requires the Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire Prevention to adopt the U.S. Department of Transportation's placarding system, but allows the division to authorize a different placarding system in municipalities.

HB 516 will standardize the placarding system in both municipalities and areas outside municipalities. The industry will not be faced with the responsibility of differing placarding systems.

The bill also clarifies a municipality's authority and responsibilities for administering a hazardous materials and hazardous wastes program.

AS 29.35.510 should be amended to give the Department of Public Safety the authority to establish and impose penalties for failure to report or post placards, as is currently given to municipalities.

The Department of Public Safety supports passage of HB 516 with amendments.



Arthur English
Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House

P.O. BOX V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

February, 29, 1988

TO: House State Affairs Committee

FROM: Representative Fran Ulmer, Chair
House State Affairs

RE: HB 516 "An Act relating to hazardous materials and
hazardous wastes."

I have been requested by Representative Niilo Koponen to waive HB 516 from House State Affairs. The next committee of referral is House HESS.

The attached memorandum from Representative Koponen briefly explains the purpose of the legislation: "The intent of this act is to make the placarding and reporting of hazardous materials consistent throughout the state". Apparently two placarding systems are in common use and he proposes NFPA 704M as the standard.

You should note that a similar bill, sponsored by Representative Max Gruenberg (HB 487), is presently in the Community and Regional Affairs Committee. If State Affairs waives HB 516, the intention would be that it be referral to Community and Regional Affairs where HB 516 and HB 487 could be considered together.


Alaska State Legislature
Representative Niilo Koponen

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February 22, 1988

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rep. Ulmer
FROM: Rep. Koponen 
RE: HB 516, "An Act relating to hazardous materials and hazardous wastes."

I would like to request that you waive HB 516 from your committee, or should you feel a State Affairs hearing is necessary, that you schedule this bill at your earliest possible convenience.

The intent of this act is to make the placarding and reporting of hazardous materials consistent throughout the state. Currently, two placarding systems are in common use, that of the US Department of Transportation and the National Fire Protection Association 704M system. Local fire chiefs intend to use the NFPA 704M, as is already the case in Anchorage. In areas where municipalities have not adopted a placarding program, handlers of hazardous materials and wastes will have to use the US DOT system, thus presenting conflicting and confusing standards.

HB 516 will establish the NMFP 704 M placard as the standard for all areas of the state.

In addition, HB 516 grants municipalities the right to establish fees to cover the cost providing placards. The right of a municipality to adopt and control its own program is unaffected.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter.