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# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date referred: 2/13/87

FURTHER REFERRALS: Telecommunications  
Labor & Commerce

DATE: 3-18-87

The State Affairs Committee has considered SB 36

"An Act relating to Amateur Radio Week."

**RECOMMENDS:**

- replace with \_\_\_\_\_  the same title
- attached amendment(s)  a new title
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

**ADOPTS:**  \_\_\_\_\_ letter of intent

**ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

- fiscal impact  same as previous fiscal note published \_\_\_\_\_
- zero fiscal note  same as previous zero fiscal note published 2/3/87
- zero with analysis

**SIGNING DO PASS:**

*Scott Meservey*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*Cliff Davidson*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*Lynna Hoffman*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*Terry Martin*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*John Palmer*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

*John Palmer*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chairman's signature



Official Business

# Alaska State Legislature

## House

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

STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 36

FILE CONTENTS

1. SENATE BILL 36: AN ACT RELATING TO AMATEUR RADIO WEEK
2. FISCAL NOTE, DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION: -0-
3. MEMORANDUM FROM SENATOR FISCHER TO REPRESENTATIVE ULMER,  
DATED 2/20/87
4. "THE ALASKAN EARTHQUAKE," PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF CIVIL  
DEFENSE, SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,  
DATED MAY 1964

STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
FISCAL NOTE

SENATE  
BILL VERSION: SB 36  
PUBLISH DATE: 2/3/87

REQUEST \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: An Act relating to Amateur Radio Week  
Sponsor: P. Fischer  
Requestor: P. Fischer

Agency Affected: All  
BRU: \_\_\_\_\_  
Components: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
<b>OPERATING</b>						
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0	0	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CAPITAL</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>REVENUE</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	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

Prepared By: Michael P. Fischer Phone: 465-2200  
 Division: Commissioner's Office Date: 1/30/87  
 Approved by Commissioner: Garrey Peska Date: 1/31/87  
 Agency: Department of Administration

- Distribution (by preparer):  
 Legislative Finance  
 Legislative Sponsor  
 Requestor  
 Office of Management and Budget  
 Impacted Agency(ies)  
 Senate Secretary

# Alaska State Legislature

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Senator Paul A. Fischer  
Senate District D  
Box 784  
Soldotna, Alaska 99669  
(907) 262-9420 W  
262-9269 H



While in Juneau  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
(907) 465-3791

## State Senate

February 20, 1987

To: Representative Fran Ulmer, Chairwoman  
House State Affairs Committee

From: Senator Paul Fischer *PF*

Subject: SB 36, Amateur Radio Week

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SB 36 will mark the observance of amateur radio week in Alaska annually. It will coincide with the nationwide "Field Day" activities that the American Radio Relay League sponsors annually on the fourth Saturday of June. It will recognize the important role amateur radio has and will continue to play in Alaska.

The primary reason for the introduction of this legislation is to recognize the important role that amateur radio operators, better known as "hams", have played in Alaska. Amateur radio operators have in many cases provided the only link between Alaska and the world during natural disasters. A notable example of their service to the citizens of this State was during the disastrous 1964 Alaska Earth Quake. During this catastrophe, amateur radio operators provided the first report that Kodiak had survived the earthquake. They also provided for a time the only communication between Alaska and the lower 48 states.

During local emergencies such as fires and automotive accidents, amateur radio operators will often relay information that is vital to Public Safety. In emergencies, amateur radio operators often relay the status of victims and messages to their next of kin. On holidays, amateurs send free messages for servicemen to their loved ones.

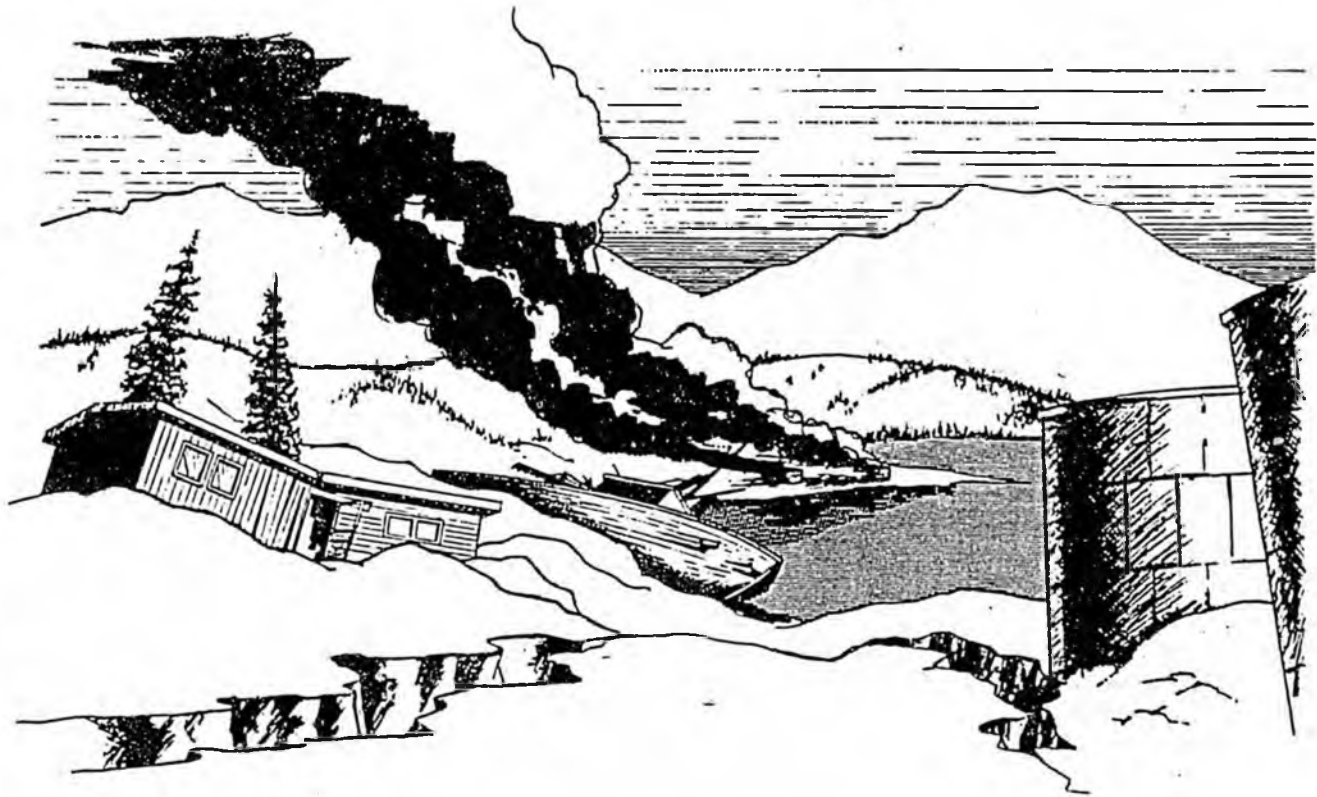
The State Affairs Committee was the only committee assignment this bill received in the House last year. The Committee passed it onto H. Rules on April 15, 1986 with 6 "Do Pass" recommendations.

For these reasons, I would greatly appreciate the scheduling of SB 36 for a hearing before your committee sometime soon.

REFERENCE

ALASKA  
REFERENCE

# THE ALASKAN EARTHQUAKE



A PRELIMINARY REPORT CONCERNING THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE THAT  
STRUCK SOUTH-CENTRAL ALASKA ON GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1964,  
AND SUBSEQUENT CIVIL DEFENSE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE  
OFFICE, SECRETARY OF THE ARMY • DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MAY 1964

on the list. At this time, health officials looked ahead and advised the establishment of typhoid inoculation centers, and hundreds of citizens took the safety precaution. The U. S. Army provided hot meals and water tankers to many neighborhoods, provided police reinforcement, town and outlying patrols, and heavy equipment while workmen were already busy repairing vital roads to immediate use. Fourteen qualified inspection teams made up of engineers and architects began the job of appraising and evaluation. An irksome and trying sewage problem developed with an almost impossible volume of problems to be fought through. Wednesday morning the downtown district opened to the public except for unsafe areas.

"Wednesday afternoon municipal power and light said the power situation was no longer on emergency basis. The two gas turbines in the city plant had provided electricity through one of the most trying times any city has ever known. Just 2 days before the earthquake hit, the city put the second turbine into operation -- and it has been going full tilt ever since.

"Wednesday afternoon public works restored sewer service to the downtown areas south of 4th Avenue and announced that Thursday morning they were to tackle the Turnagain area and open the Hood Crack outfall and provide service from Sondstrom Drive all the way to the inlet. All this time the Anchorage fire department was patrolling, checking, keeping ahead. Fire was not a problem to us (only one minor blaze reported in the first hours of the emergency); but the Anchorage fire department did more than their share in the overall. City policemen are still working 12-hour shifts. Cooperation was running high and coordination was running at a better percentage of effectiveness than anyone ever had hoped for.

"The Anchorage Port, with its four huge cranes completely immobilized, received the new van ship 'Tonsina' loaded with supplies. Northstar Stevedoring moved in a mobile crane and the supplies were on their way for our use. Trash and garbage disposal went on. Distribution of chemical toilets and all of the related problems. These were a busy 5 days, but things were moving back to normal at a fantastic rate. Even the 50 thousand volumes at the Loussac Library were in their rightful places again.

"To top it all off, we ended the day by announcing that the neon lights could again be turned on.

"A busy 5 days, but worth it! And the job has just begun."

Communications -- State radio nets immediately operational after the earthquake included those of the Fish and Game Service, the State Police, and the Department of Highways. Members of the State of Alaska Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services, known as

"RACES" were among the first to establish any serviceable communications between key emergency control points. RACES is a part of State and local civil defense.

Within minutes, under the direction of Ernest Hewett, Alaska State RACES Officer, mobile shortwave units had been positioned at various critical points around Anchorage. RACES continued to provide 'round-the-clock service through the emergency -- not only in the emergency operations network, but in handling messages to and from "the outside," and traffic from outlying damaged areas.

Hewett parked his mobile short wave unit at State Civil Defense Headquarters in Anchorage. He describes his operations this way:

"By my watch, when I first went on the air it was 47 minutes past the hour (11 minutes after the earthquake hit). On putting the station on the air ... I called for any mobile units ... and raised approximately three. I continued to operate mobile at the time and tried to get someone to go ahead and hook up the emergency power generator which we had in the building, but had not been wired into the system after overhaul.

"Operating from the car, I dispatched mobiles as they came on the air to previously selected positions on a basis of a possible requirement, such as hospitals, the Anchorage City Civil Defense, State Police, Alaskan Command ....

"My Deputy RACES Officer happened to be the chief engineer of the first radio station that came on the air and he was on the air in the radio station with a communicator -- so we established communications immediately with the radio stations. As soon as the next station came on the air -- they happened to be two compatible stations -- they tied together in a simulcast ..."

Radio, TV Stations -- All local radio stations and both television stations were knocked off the air immediately when the earthquake occurred. One 10,000-watt radio station -- the Emergency Broadcast Station (Civil Defense) for Anchorage -- was, with the help of an emergency generator, back on the air within 20 to 30 minutes.

The station engineer, Deputy RACES Officer for Alaska, made the first announcements: They reportedly were these:

"There has been an earthquake."

"Don't use your telephone."

"Stay tuned for official civil defense emergency information."

Although RACES and State-agency radio nets provided early essential communications, the military quickly supplemented these with mobile microwave units. One was parked outside State Civil Defense Headquarters. Military personnel manned the microwave circuits and also the State CD Teletype circuits. The State-agency radio nets were particularly helpful in relaying information to and from remote areas.

The military airlift by the U. S. Air Force of equipment, supplies, and personnel, at the request of State civil defense, was the greatest in any peacetime disaster. The largest item airlifted was a Bailey Bridge, used to replace a bridge knocked out on the highway between Kenai and Soldatna. The Bailey Bridge, which weighed 330,000 pounds, was airlifted within 3 days in 9 loads on a C-123 aircraft, and in 6 loads on a C-124. The Air Force also provided aerial reconnaissance photographs of earthquake damage.

The California Air National Guard airlifted several thousand pounds of irrigation pipe from California for use in supplying pure water to homes in the Turnagain area of Anchorage. This was at the request of Anchorage Civil Defense, through Alaska State Civil Defense. The California Air National Guard also airlifted a complete redwood house for Governor Egan's use as a temporary emergency headquarters in Anchorage.

Civil Air Patrol -- The Civil Air Patrol Group based in Anchorage went into service almost immediately following the earthquake; in close cooperation with State Civil Defense. This Group airlifted critically needed equipment, personnel, and supplies to hard-hit outlying areas. The Air Force provided a liaison officer (Maj. Karl Kenyon, USAF) from nearby Elmendorf Air Force Base, and also provided gasoline and oil for operation of the CAP airplanes. Ten pilots of the Group flew scores of relief missions to outlying areas, and delivered trained specialists and thousands of pounds of critically needed supplies. CAP Lt. Col. J. Vic Brown, Group Commander, suffered severe personal loss to his home and business in the 'quake, but nevertheless put in long hours day after day on duty with the Group. Many of the pilots worked around the clock.

Emergency Communications -- Amateur radio was indispensable in this disaster. One of the reasons for this capability is that amateur radio is an integral part of many Alaskans' daily communication with other places.

Emergency Information -- Emergency public information was a major problem. A statewide capability for broadcasting official, accurate information was created by using civil defense RACES Gonset sets located in commercial radio and TV stations, the Armed Forces Radio Service, and the Alaska Communications System.

## FEDERAL CIVIL DEFENSE

There could, of course, be no advance warning of the earthquake. The National Warning System, however, operated by the Office of Civil Defense, was immensely useful as an emergency communications medium during the first hours of the disaster. Robert Risley, OCD Warning Officer for Alaska, stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base, was able to provide valuable initial communications through use of the National Warning System Circuit. Within minutes after the earthquake occurred, a RACES communications officer parked his mobile shortwave rig just outside the door of the Alaska Air Command combat operations center where Risley has his warning post. Emergency messages could then be passed back and forth to the OCD Warning Officer, from both Anchorage and State civil defense headquarters, and from Fort Richardson, and other outlying areas. Risley provided the first civilian situation report to the Pentagon in Washington, D. C. -- through the Office of Civil Defense Public Information -- to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Defense News Room.

OCD Region 8, Everett, Washington -- Tidal wave warnings received from the Hawaii Magnetic Observatory through the 28th and 25th warning centers in California, and in Washington State, were relayed by OCD Region 8 to State Civil Defense headquarters in Washington, Oregon, and California. Those States, in turn, warned localities along their coastlines.

Immediately following the earthquake, Charles Ralls, Director of OCD Region 8, directed that OCD personnel assist the Office of Emergency Planning staff on radio and landline communications to Alaska.

The next day, Ralls directed that his Director of Field Operations, the OCD Field Officer for Alaska, and the Region 8 Warning Officer leave for Alaska on the morning of March 30 to assist the Alaska State Civil Defense staff and personnel of the Office of Emergency Planning (OEP) in Alaska.

A Region 8 staff member was also sent to Elmendorf Air Force Base for 2 weeks to work in the OEP office there.

The OCD field staff worked with Alaska State Civil Defense personnel during the most hectic period of the disaster.

In the early emergency period, Director Ralls had advised both State and Anchorage Civil Defense that OCD shelter supplies were available to be used in the emergency. He also advised that surplus property could be used if necessary. The OCD Regional personnel sent to Alaska also provided that information upon arrival. A total of seven OCD Region 8 staff members eventually provided assistance in Alaska.