

SB

125

# Alaska State Legislature

## House of Representatives

### Committee on Transportation



Rep. Bette Cato, Chairman

Pouch V  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
(907) 465-4858

May 11, 1987

#### COMMITTEE CALENDAR:

HB 213: "An Act relating to allocation of federal-aid highway funds; and providing for an effective date."

SB 25am: "An Act providing a special assessment for private airports open for public use; and providing for an effective date."

CSSB 125am: "An Act relating to the Alaska Marine Transportation Advisory Board."

#### FOR THIS MEETING YOU HAVE:

##### A folder on HB 213 that includes:

- \* a copy of the committee substitute for HB 213
- \* a sectional analysis
- \* a letter of intent
- \* a fiscal note on CSHB 213 from DOT/PF
- \* a copy of HB 213
- \* a fiscal note & position paper on HB 213 from DOT/PF
- \* information from the six-year capital plan
- \* a classification of road miles within Alaska
- \* a letter from the Ass't. Division Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration
- \* a report on HB 213 from Rep. Hoffman
- \* minutes from the 4/13, 4/15 & 5/4 public hearings of HB 213

##### A folder on SB 25am that includes:

- \* a copy of SB 25 am
- \* a fiscal note from the DOT/PF
- \* minutes from the House Comm & Regional Affairs public hearing on SB 25am
- \* two letters of support
- \* an editorial from the Daily News Miner

##### A folder on CSSB 125am that includes:

- \* a copy of CSSB 125am
- \* a memorandum from Sen. Duncan
- \* a fiscal note & position paper from DOT/PF
- \* two newspaper articles
- \* an excerpt from the statutes effected by CSSB 125 am



# Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR JIM DUNCAN

P. O. Box V JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

(907) 465-4766

COMMITTEES:  
FINANCE  
RESOURCES  
BUDGET AND AUDIT

## M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: April 6, 1987

TO: Representative Bette Cato  
Chairman  
House Committee on Transportation

FROM: Senator Jim Duncan

SUBJECT: SB 125, Marine Transportation Advisory Board

I respectfully request a hearing for this bill at your earliest convenience. I am forwarding information to be used as backup for this legislation.

The creation of the Marine Transportation Advisory Board will guarantee that passengers who use the Marine Highway System, along with merchants who depend on the system for freight, will have a voice in the systems level of service.

Because the Alaska Marine Highway System is used by so many people, both in South Central Alaska and in Southeast, it is imperative they have a mechanism in which their concerns are considered. As has been the case in many private sector transportation organizations, an advisory board has proven to be an entity the public can focus on that takes into consideration their real needs. It is important that a formal citizens' group review budget-induced schedule changes in the system and make recommendations on potential changes that might have less of an effect on the public. More over, citizen advisory boards tend to bring out many good ideas that will enhance an organization's ability to operate effeciently.

The Marine Transportation Advisory Board will consist of five members from which at least three come from communities served by the Alaska Marine Highway System.

**STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
FISCAL NOTE**

**REQUEST:**

Revision Date: 03/19/87  
 Title: "An Act relating to the Alaska  
 Marine Transportation Advisory Board."  
 Sponsor: Duncan et al  
 Requestor: Uehling

Bill Version: SB 125  
 Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Affected: DOT/PF - AMHS  
 BRU: Marine Administration

Components: Advisory Board

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)**

OPERATING	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL		16.0	15.8	16.6	17.4	18.3
CONTRACTUAL		2.5	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>		18.5	17.9	18.8	19.7	20.7

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
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**FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)**

GENERAL FUND		18.5	17.9	18.8	19.7	20.7
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
<b>TOTAL</b>		18.5	17.9	18.8	19.7	20.7

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

**ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)**

See Attached

Prepared by: George W. Davidson, Systems Director  
 Division: Alaska Marine Highway System

Phone: 465-3950  
 Date: 03/19/87

Approved by Commissioner: Mark S. Uehling  
 Agency: Dept. of Transportation and Public Facilities

Date: 3/22/87

**Distribution (by preparer):**

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

## CONTINUATION of FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

For Bill/Resolution No. SB 125

The proposed legislation creates an Advisory Board for the Alaska Marine Highway System, with five members to serve without compensation. Necessary costs, therefore, are limited to those of conducting the Board's meetings. After two familiarization meetings to be held in Juneau during the first three months, regular meetings will be held on a quarterly basis. The effective date is assumed to be July 1, 1987.

## FY 88 COSTS

<u>Travel</u>		\$ 16.0
Transportation and per diem for five Board members	\$ 13.5	
Transportation and per diem for AMHS staff to attend Board meetings (locations other than Juneau)	2.5	
<u>Contractual Services</u>		2.5
Public Notice Advertising		
Total		\$ <u>18.5</u>

An annual inflation factor of 5% has been included beginning in FY 89. Costs have been reduced for FY 89 to reflect a total of four quarterly meetings, three to be held in Southeast Alaska and one in Southcentral.



Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities

# Position Paper

**BILL NO:** SB 125

**TITLE:** Alaska Marine Highway System  
Advisory Board

**APPROVED:** Mark S. Hickey *M.S.H.*  
Commissioner

**DATE:** 3/17/87

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The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has reviewed the subject bill. We endorse the concept and will welcome the input from the Advisory Board.

The bill does contain some language which we feel would imply a role for the Advisory Board which is contrary to our desires.

On page 3, Section 19.65.150 Duties (1) directs the Board to coordinate with the Governor and Legislature. We feel a more productive approach would be to coordinate with the Governor and Commissioner through a direct contact with the Director of Alaska Marine Highway System.

Other than this one change that which we feel will provide a more useful role for the Board we support its' existence and encourage support for the passage of the Bill and funding of the program.

Front Page

Juneau Empire 2/12/87

# Duncan proposes ferry advisory board

By CHUCK KLEESCHULTE

THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

In an effort to guarantee that freight and passenger users get some voice in future schedule reductions facing the Alaska Marine Highway System, Juneau Sen. Jim Duncan this morning introduced legislation setting up a citizens' advisory board.

The Democrat said he believes it is important that a formal citizens' group review budget-induced schedule changes in the ferry system and make recommendations on potential changes that might have less of an effect on the public.

"What I see coming is a reduced

level of service, but it is important that we evaluate plans from a user's perspective so that freight and passengers get a level of service that takes their real needs into consideration," said Duncan this morning.

He said under his plan five public members - at least three from communities served by the ferry system - would be appointed by the governor. While not paid, the advisory board, which would serve five-year terms, would get per diem and be empowered by the governor to hold hearings and make recommendations on changes in the operation of the nine-vessel ferry fleet.

"It's really important given the changes coming that we make sure freight user needs are protected, plus the true needs of passengers. We need to maximize the frequency of service in Southeast and a citizens' board may help to make sure the department does that in coming up with new operating schedules," said Duncan.

On Wednesday, Sen. Lloyd Jones, R-Ketchikan, proposed that Ketchikan be the end of the state's mainline service from Seattle to improve the frequency of runs to the West Coast. Duncan said he's not in a position to support or oppose that

suggestion yet, but he said he wants to see it and other suggestions considered as an alternative to once-a-week mainline and once-a-week non-summer feeder ferry service proposed in Gov. Steve Cowper's budget for next year.

Under Cowper's original budget, ferries would sustain a \$10 million cut in their operating subsidy. About \$2 million of that was added back to pay for higher insurance costs, leaving a cut of over \$8 million in the operating subsidy for the \$65 million system. Last year, about \$30 million of its budget came from the state.

Please turn to Page 5

## Ferry...

Continued from Page 1

Duncan said his bill might not pass in time to have the board be functional to help in making suggested changes to the proposed schedule that would go into effect in late September. But he said the advisory board would certainly help to gain public reaction to future schedule shifts.

2/16/87

# JUNEAU EMPIRE

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## Advisory board a good idea

**F**or years, private companies have been using citizens' advisory boards to great advantage. When they want to test "trial balloons" or when they simply want a reading on how well they are doing, they go to their advisory boards and ask. The answers they get help correct problems, prevent mistakes and improve good ideas. Above all else, the boards prove that the companies *listen* to the people they serve.

Juneau Sen. Jim Duncan has proposed incorporating this valuable private-enterprise tool into the state-run Alaska Marine Highway System. Last week he submitted a bill in the Senate that would establish a citizens' advisory board for the ferry system.

**ISSUE:** Advisory board proposed for state ferries

The idea is long overdue. For years, most decisions regarding the ferry system reflected the interests of either the management or the employees. The public's needs often seemed to be lost in the shuffle, even though the public pays for the ferries and uses them.

As long as it is composed of citizens who will be "plugged into" the needs and attitudes of their communities, an advisory board will help ferry managers and employees refocus their attention on the people they are serving. The board should not be composed of junior-grade bureaucrats who will have a bunch of meaningless public hearings or take it upon themselves to manipulate their positions to benefit other interests besides those of the public. That's how the ferry system got off track in the first place.

The folks who ride the ferries want friendly service, good food, convenient schedules and reasonable rates. They also want to know about their ferry system and how it works. If you gauge the system on these basics, it's obvious there is room for improvement.

A citizens' advisory board may not be the answer to all of these problems, but it would sure go a long way toward finding the answer.

STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE

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POUCH Y - STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811  
907-465-3800

May, 1988

Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the STAIRS database CMPR. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Van Nimwegen

H. TRANS.

5-11-87

1:30 p.m.

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date referred: 3/27/87

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Finance

5/12

DATE: May 11, 1987

The Transportation Committee has considered CSSB 125(Fin)am

"An Act relating to the Alaska Marine Transportation Advisory Board."

**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 3/24/87
- zero fiscal note  same as previous zero fiscal note published \_\_\_\_\_
- zero with analysis

**SIGNING DO PASS:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*D.A. B...*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*Bill Hudson*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*Bette Cuto*  
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**SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*M. Miller No Rec*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*Heinrich Springer No Rec.*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*Tommy Weaver No Rec*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Bette Cuto*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chairman's signature



Official Business

**COMMITTEE:**

House Transportation Committee

**DATE:** May 11, 1987

**SIGN-IN**

**Subject of meeting:**

HB 213: Allocation of Federal-aid Highway Funds  
SB 25am: Tax Assessment of Private Airports  
CSSB 125am: Creating Marine Highway Advisory Board

**NAME** Please include title **ADDRESS** Please use full address. Please include zip. **PHONE** **REPRESENTING** **DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY?**

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	REPRESENTING	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY?
DALE STALEY	SB 125 Cop. 119 4766	4766	Senator Duncan	YES
MARK HICKEY	SB 125 / HB 213	3900.	DOT / PF	QUESTIONS ONLY

HB 213