

CSHB

85

STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Bill Version: CSHB 85(Jud)
Publish Date: HOUSE 3/6/87

REQUEST _____

Revision Date: 2/18/87
Title: An act relating to reporting of unclaimed property
Sponsor: Rules/Governor
Requestor: Finance

Agency Affected: Revenue
BRU: Audit
Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
OPERATING						
PERSONAL SERVICES	-	-	-	-	-	-
TRAVEL	-	-	-	-	-	-
CONTRACTUAL	-	-	-	-	-	-
SUPPLIES	-	-	-	-	-	-
EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	-	-
LANDS & STRUCTURES	-	-	-	-	-	-
GRANTS, CLAIMS	-	-	-	-	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL OPERATING	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
CAPITAL	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
REVENUE	500.0	500.0	500.0	500.0	500.0	500.0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

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

POSITIONS:

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

ANALYSIS: See attached.

Prepared By: Steven E. Kettel *SK*
Division: Audit

Phone: 465-2320
Date: 2/18/87

Approved by Commissioner: Hugh Malone *HMalone*
Agency: Revenue

Date: 2/18/87

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

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

Fiscal Note Analysis
CSHB 85

During the final hours of the 1986 legislative session, an amendment to the Uniform Act was offered by a local businessman. The amendment, AS 34.45.280(f) exempts holders of unclaimed property and abandoned property from filing a report with the Department if the total amount held is less than \$750.00. The Department was not given an opportunity to testify on the amendment and would have been in extreme opposition to it. The Uniform Act was adopted primarily to give this State the authority to require holders located outside this State to turn over property held for persons with a last known address in Alaska. We believe millions of dollars are held by thousands of financial institutions, often in increments much less than the \$750.00 minimum contained in 280(f). Retaining this amendment will preclude the State, and eventually its citizens, from being reunited with hundreds of thousands of dollars of their property. Repeal of this section must be enacted immediately before holders become accustomed to its provisions allowing them exemption from filing a report.

109 of 193 holders that filed a 1986 report with the Department were lower 48 companies that paid less than \$750.00 each. Much of the property being reported to us consists of dividends paid to shareholders on the company's stock. The state is entitled to receive these unclaimed dividends annually and after seven dividends are abandoned the underlying shares are also subject to being reported to the State. These companies, many of them Fortune 500 companies, represent the "tip of the iceberg" as far as the number of foreign corporations and businesses that should be reporting unclaimed property to us. Many others are not yet aware of our new legislation. However, because of the number of requests we have received for copies of our law, we also believe that hundreds of companies have not exceeded the \$750 threshold and have legally not filed a report this year. Interestingly, only five Alaska corporations with unclaimed property of less than \$750.00 have reported it to us.

The compromise language in the committee substitute bill is not expected to greatly impact revenues that otherwise are expected to be received.

Original sponsor: Rules/Governor

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 85 (Judiciary)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION
5 A BILL
6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to reporting of unclaimed property;
7 and providing for an effective date."
8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
9 * Section 1. AS 34.45.280(f) is amended to read:
10 (f) The requirements of this section do not apply to the holder
11 of gift certificates and credit memos that are [INTANGIBLE PROPERTY
12 THAT IS] presumed abandoned under AS 34.45.240 [AS 34.45.110 - 34.45.-
13 780] during the year preceding June 30 of each year if the total
14 aggregate value of the certificates and memos [INTANGIBLE PROPERTY] is
15 less than \$100 [\$750].
16 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

STEVE COWPER
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

January 29, 1987

The Honorable Ben Grussendorf
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Grussendorf:

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to reporting of unclaimed intangible property.

The Uniform Unclaimed Property Act, promulgated in 1981 by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, was enacted in Alaska last year (ch. 133, SLA 1986). During the hectic final days of the 1986 legislative session, two amendments to the bill proposing the Uniform Act were adopted to exempt holders of unclaimed and abandoned intangible property from filing a report with the Department of Revenue if the total amount held by a particular holder is less than \$750. (See AS 34.45.280 and compare sec. 17 of the Uniform Act.) Those two amendments, significantly increasing the breadth and depth of AS 34.45.280(f)'s exemption (already in the then pending, but not the original, version of the bill), grossly intensified the problem of AS 34.45.280(f) itself. I am convinced that their effect was not fully analyzed before adoption. The most appropriate solution is the complete repeal of AS 34.45.280(f), and that is what this bill does.

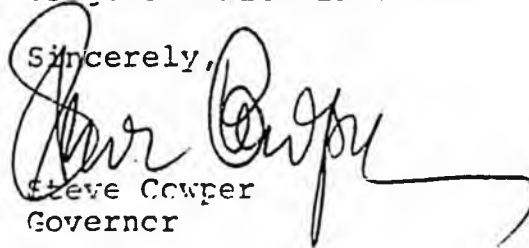
Not only is AS 34.45.280(f) inconsistent with the Uniform Act, retaining it would preclude the state and eventually the people of the state from being reunited with hundreds of thousands of dollars of property. It is important that this subsection be repealed at the earliest possible date, before holders of unclaimed property become accustomed to its exemption and get in the habit of not filing a report for this property.

One primary reason for enacting the Uniform Act was to give the state the authority to require holders located outside of this state to turn over property held for persons with a last known address in this state. It is believed that millions of dollars are held by thousands of out-of-state

businesses, especially banks and other financial institutions, in amounts less than the \$750 specified in AS 34.45.280(f). Repeal of that subsection would enable the state to reclaim most of that money.

For the good of the state and its people, and to help provide uniformity with other states enacting the Uniform Act, I strongly urge your prompt passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve Cowper", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Cowper
Governor

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

FURTHER:

FINANCE

3/10/87

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE

4/10/87

Mr. President:

JUDICIARY Committee considered CSHB 85(JUD)
reporting of unclaimed property; efd.

and recommended:

replace with CS FOR _____) same title
 or adopt ~~CS FOR _____~~) new title

attached amendment(s) and

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

further referral to _____

letter of intent adopted _____

Committee attached or adopted fiscal note(s)

new updated or previous ~~XX~~

zero fiscal impact

MEMBERS SIGNING DO PASS

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Joe Jacobson

Rich Stedman NO REC
Julia Funcher NO REC
Walter Raley NO REC

[Signature]
Chairman signature and recommendation

Committee Backup Attached