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STEVE COWPER  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALASKA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
JUNEAU

February 16, 1988

The Honorable Jan Faiks  
President of the Senate  
Alaska State Legislature  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Faiks:

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to disclosure of certain employment security information. The bill amends existing AS 23.20.110, regarding confidentiality and release of employment security records, to allow the Department of Labor to make public disclosures of the residency status of employees. Additionally, the bill provides a mechanism to preclude disclosure if the United States Department of Labor finds that the bill would place the employment security program in substantial noncompliance with federal program requirements in 42 U.S.C. 503(a).

Alaska is presently experiencing high unemployment, with substantial economic problems, among its residents. The Department of Labor is responsible for advancing opportunities for workers in Alaska in order to reduce that alarming unemployment rate (AS 23.05.010). One avenue open to the department is to publicly inform employers of their resident hire record and to encourage them to consider qualified Alaskans for recruitment.

At the present time, AS 23.20.110(a) precludes the department from making such public statements based on employment security records. The bill amends the statute to allow disclosure. Sections 2 and 3 of the bill.

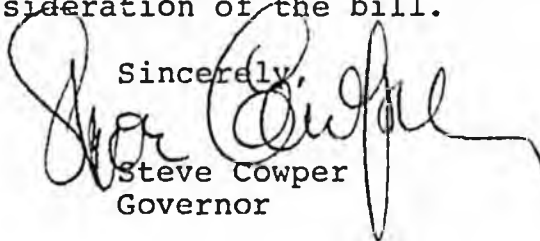
The bill adequately protects the privacy interests of the individual employees involved, for it precludes the department from releasing an employee's name, or information that would individually identify an employee. Section 3 of the bill.

Additionally, while the bill allows employers to be individually named, it expressly precludes the denial or limitation of department benefits, or other discrimination against the employer, because of the department's analysis of the employer's hiring practices. Section 3 of the bill.

Because the employment security program must comply with federal program requirements in order to receive federal money, the bill adequately protects that money by prohibiting disclosure of the information if the federal government finds that that action would cause a substantial noncompliance with the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 503(a). Section 3 of the bill.

This bill has the strong support of the Department of Labor and is consistent with this Administration's goal of enhancing job opportunities for Alaska residents. I urge your prompt and favorable consideration of the bill.

Sincerely,



Steve Cowper  
Governor

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: "An Act relating to disclosure of certain employment security information."  
 Sponsor: Rules Committee  
 Requestor: Governor  
 Agency Affected: Labor  
 BRU: Employment Security  
 Components: Unemployment Insurance

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

| OPERATING         | FY 88 | FY 89 | FY 90 | FY 91 | FY 92 | FY 93 |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| PERSONAL SERVICES |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| TRAVEL            |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| CONTRACTUAL       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| SUPPLIES          |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| EQUIPMENT         |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| LAND & STRUCTURES |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| GRANTS, CLAIMS    |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| MISCELLANEOUS     |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| TOTAL OPERATING   | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |

|         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| CAPITAL |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

|         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| REVENUE |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

|               |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GENERAL FUND  |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| FEDERAL FUNDS |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| OTHER         |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| TOTAL         | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

POSITIONS:

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

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

[Empty box for analysis]

Prepared by: Joe Sifton, Director Phone: 465-2725  
 Division: Employment Security Date: 2/9/88  
 Approved by Commissioner: Jim Sampson Date: 2/9/88  
 Agency: Labor

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