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HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred: January 8, 1990

FURTHER REFERRALS: FINANCE

Date of Committee Action: 4/19/90

The HEALTH, EDUCATION, & SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered: HB 389

HOUSE BILL NO. 389

COMMISSION FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

"An Act establishing the Commission for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired."

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- be replaced with CS HB 389 (HESS) the same title
- have 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):
(Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Date/Dept)

- fiscal impact Adm
- zero fiscal note _____
- zero with analysis _____

- fiscal note(s) _____
- zero fiscal note(s) _____
- zero fn/analysis _____

SIGNING DO PASS

[Signature]

SIGNING:
(Check approp. column)

	Do Not Pass	No Rec	Amend
<u>[Signature]</u>			X
<u>Cheri Davis</u>	X		
<u>[Signature]</u>		X	
<u>Mark Beyer</u>	X		

[Signature]
Chairman's Signature

Original sponsor(s): REP. BOUCHER, Hudson

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HESS COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 389 (HESS)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing a Task Force for the Deaf and
7 Hard of Hearing; and providing for an effective
8 date."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. TASK FORCE FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING. (a) The
11 Task Force for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is created in the Department of
12 Administration.

13 (b) The task force consists of seven members appointed by the gover-
14 nor. Four members shall be deaf or hard of hearing persons, one member
15 shall be a parent of a deaf or hard of hearing person, one member shall be
16 an officer or employee of a private or municipal organization that provides
17 services to deaf or hard of hearing persons, and one member shall be an
18 employee of a state agency that provides services to deaf or hard of hear-
19 ing persons. The governor shall request and consider recommendations from
20 the Alaska Association of the Deaf before appointing members to the task
21 force.

22 (c) The Task Force, by majority vote of the membership, shall elect a
23 chair and other officers it considers necessary from among its membership.

24 (d) Members of the task force serve without compensation, but are
25 entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and commis-
26 sions under AS 39.20 '80.

27 * Sec. 2. POWERS OF THE TASK FORCE. (a) The task force may

28 (1) ascertain the extent and availability of services to deaf
29 and hard of hearing persons within the state and recommend improvements to

1 the accessibility and quality of those services and the development of new
2 services when necessary;

3 (2) make recommendations that will advocate, provide, and coor-
4 dinate adoption of public policies, regulations, and programs to advance
5 the interests of deaf and hard of hearing persons;

6 (3) recommend methods to promote public awareness of deaf and
7 hard of hearing persons and their contributions to society;

8 (4) work with the Department of Education, the Board of Regents
9 of the University of Alaska, local school districts, and other public and
10 private entities to encourage ongoing interpreter education programs de-
11 signed to increase the number of qualified and competent interpreters for
12 deaf and hard of hearing persons in the state;

13 (5) obtain equipment, including TTY machines, and services,
14 including interpreter services, that are necessary for the task force to
15 exercise its powers under this Act.

16 (b) Contracts for equipment and services for the task force are
17 exempt from AS 36.30 (State Procurement Code).

18 * Sec. 3. REPORT. The task force shall report its findings and rec-
19 ommendations to the governor and the legislature on or before June 30,
20 1991.

21 * Sec. 4. DEFINITIONS. In secs 1 - 4 of this Act

22 (1) "deaf" means subject to a loss of the ability to hear and
23 understand speech so that primary mode of communication is through
24 American Sign Language, speech reading, gestures, or writing;

25 (2) "hard of hearing" means subject to a partial loss of hearing
26 in one or both ears that results in difficulty in hearing and understanding
27 speech in the ear;

28 (3) "task force" means the Task Force for the Deaf and Hard of
29 Hearing.

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* Sec. 5. This Act is repealed June 30, 1991.

* Sec. 6. This Act takes effect July 1, 1990.

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
Title: "An Act establishing a Task Force
for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: ..."
Sponsor: Boucher
Requestor: HESS

Agency Affected: Administration
BRU: Commissioner's Office
Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL	25.6	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CONTRACTUAL	4.4	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	30.0	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	30.0	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	30.0	-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) **

Travel costs cover 4 one-week meeting of full task force through the year and trips to other communities for purposes of gathering information.

Contractual costs are for conference calls, clerical preparation; printing and duplication of reports.

Prepared by: James L. Fox Phone: 465-2200
Division: Commissioner's Office Date: 4/10/90

Approved by Commissioner: Frank S. Baxter Date: 4/10/90
Agency: Department of Administration

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

** Any FY90 fiscal impact will be absorbed by the Department of Administration.

STEVE COWPER
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

FEB 08 1

January 30, 1990

Mr. Albert Berke
President
Alaska Association for the Deaf
1345 Rudakof Circle, Suite 107
Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Albert,

Thanks for your letter expressing your support for establishing a Commission for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired (HB 389).

In responding to your request for support of this bill, I considered information from the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Education's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and from the Governor's Council for the Handicapped and Gifted. The response from these and other organizations, plus staff recommendations, do not support the establishment of another commission. As you know, the Governor's Council for the Handicapped and Gifted has the responsibility for protection and advocacy, services, and powers and duties as outlined in this draft bill.

On November 9, 1989, I appointed Mr. Roger Claussen to the Governor's Council for the Handicapped and Gifted. Mr. Claussen represents the deaf community and was endorsed by your organization. I would encourage you to work with Mr. Claussen and the Council to ensure that your concerns are known.

I am sure that you will work closely with your legislators regarding passage of HB 389. Should the bill pass, I will certainly review your letter and comments again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Cowper".

Steve Cowper
Governor

STEVE COWPER
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

March 19, 1990

Mina

The Honorable Johnny Ellis
Alaska State Representative
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: HB 389

Dear Representative Ellis:

My office has conducted extensive research on the need for a separate commission for the deaf and hearing impaired. I have considered information from the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Education's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Governor's Council for the Handicapped and Gifted. The response from these and other organizations, plus staff recommendations, do not support the establishment of another commission.

The Governor's Council for the Handicapped and Gifted has the responsibility for protection and advocacy, services, and powers and duties as outlined in HB 389. In addition to this Council, the State has other agencies and resources available to the deaf community such as the Louise Rude Center, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and Interpreter Referral Line, to name a few.

Governor Cowper recently appointed Roger Claussen to the Governor's Council for the Handicapped and Gifted. Mr. Claussen is deaf and was recommended by Al Berke and the Alaska Association for the Deaf. The deaf community is further represented on the Council by Blanche Walters, a parent of a deaf adult son.

Since Mr. Claussen's appointment in November of 1989, I have encouraged Al Berke, as President of the Alaska Association for the Deaf, to work with Mr. Claussen and the Council to ensure that the Association's concerns are known.

Representative Ellis

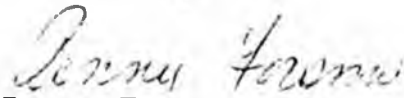
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March 19, 1990

I spoke to experts in the field statewide as well as representatives of the deaf community. My research concluded that it is not the consensus of the deaf community that a new and separate commission is needed.

I thought you should be aware of and consider this information before this Thursday's hearing on HB 389. If you have any questions, please call me at 465-3500.

Sincerely,



Penny Forsmo
Special Staff Assistant
Boards and Commission

cc: Representative Bill Hudson

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

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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. HESS 3-23-90

H. HESS 4-17-90