

S B

248

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

BILL NUMBER SB 248

SPONSOR Duncan

BILL TITLE Pioneers' Home admission requirements

DATE REFERRED 3-31-89

HEARING SCHEDULED 2.7.90

FISCAL NOTE PREPARED ✓

SPONSOR CONTACTED Roxanne or Dale

INTERESTED PARTIES CONTACTED

Joe Alter: (Amos)
Arch. Pioneer Home: Stan (276-3414) FAX 278-6006

OTHER

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT
FIRST COMMITTEE OF REFERRAL

SB 248 - withdrawn
in favor of SS
SB 389.

DATE: 2/7/90

FURTHER: H E S S
Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: _____
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED
INTO OFFICE: _____

State Affairs _____ Committee considered _____ SSSB 389

An Act relating to the Pioneers' Home..

and recommended:

- replace with _____ CS _____ same title
- attached amendment(s) new title
- _____ letter of intent adopted

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

further referral to _____

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department(s)/Date:

Department(s)/Date:

fiscal note(s) _____

zero fiscal note(s) DOA

appropriation-no fiscal note

Governor's bill w/fiscal note

SIGNING DO PASS:

Tim Kelly
Jan Fink

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Pat Faucher do pass

Chair: Signature and Recommendation

MEMO TO FILE -- FROM SANDRA, 11/21/89
ISSUE: PIONEER HOMES ADMISSIONS PRIORITY

Seniors can be broken into 3 financial categories:

1. Those who are "destitute" and Medicaid-eligible.
2. Those who are not technically destitute so can't receive Medicaid, but whose income is too low to pay for nursing care.
3. Those whose income allows them to pay for nursing care.

The current Pioneers Home statute gives admissions priority to persons in Category 1. Persons in Categories 2 and 3 typically have to wait 1-2 years to get into the Home. Some people think this is unfair because people in Category 1 have the option of going to a private nursing facility at which Medicaid would pay their full cost of care. People in Category 2 don't have this option because they're not Medicaid-eligible and can't afford to pay the cost of care themselves.

Pourchot attended a hearing of Senator Kerttula's Senior Committee at which Barbara Sims from Our Lady of Compassion proposed that the admissions priority be changed. Barbara Bathony, Director of the Division of Pioneer Benefits, Department of Administration, suggested accomplishing this by changing the definition of need to those who are "destitute and have no other resources" (i.e. don't receive Medicaid). This would do two things:

1. Persons whose income is slightly too high to be Medicaid-eligible but not high enough to pay for care in a private facility would receive admissions priority. This would benefit this group of individuals who currently have difficulty finding affordable care.
2. Persons whose income is low enough to be Medicaid-eligible would be removed from the admissions priority list. These people could be cared for in private facilities while awaiting admission to the Pioneers Home. This would benefit private facilities by keeping beds filled (and revenue coming in).

POURCHOT THINKS THIS MAY BE WORTH PURSUING AND THAT SB 248 IS AN APPROPRIATE VEHICLE FOR SUCH AN AMENDMENT. IF SB 248 IS SCHEDULED FOR A HEARING, PLEASE BRING THIS MEMO TO POURCHOT'S ATTENTION.

According to Bathony (11/21/89):

Some Pioneers would like to eliminate any admissions priority.

The Long Term Care Task Force (1988?) took no position on this issue.

There is a concern that if the eligibility statute is opened up to statutory change, the current 15-year residency requirement might be in jeopardy.

Alaska State Legislature



SENATOR JIM DUNCAN

P. O. Box V JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-3100
(907) 465-4766

COMMITTEES:
FINANCE
VICE CHAIR -
HEALTH EDUCATION
& SOCIAL SERVICES
BUDGET & AUDIT
BANKING &
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

RECEIVED APR 3 1989

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 5, 1989
TO: SENATOR PAT POURCHOT, CHAIR
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
FROM: SENATOR JIM DUNCAN
SUBJECT: SB 248, RELATING TO REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE
PIONEERS' HOME

SENATE BILL 248, RELATING TO REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE PIONEERS' HOMES, WILL AMEND THE ADMISSION STANDARDS OF THE PIONEERS' HOME SYSTEM TO CLEARLY STATE THAT A PERSON MUST BE 65 YEARS OLD TO QUALIFY FOR ADMISSION.

I INTRODUCED SB 248 IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION SPONSORED BY THE PIONEERS' HOME ADVISORY BOARD IN SEPTEMBER 1988 URGING THAT THE MINIMUM AGE FOR ADMISSION TO A PIONEERS' HOMES BE ESTABLISHED AT 65 YEARS. ACCORDING TO THE BOARD'S RESOLUTION, ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM AGE OF 65 FOR ADMISSION WILL HELP TO PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE PIONEERS' HOME SYSTEM.

CURRENT STATUTES ALLOW ADMISSION TO A PIONEERS' HOME IF A PERSON HAS LIVED IN ALASKA FOR AT LEAST 15 YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING APPLICATION AND IS DESTITUTE WITH NO AGE REQUIREMENT STATED. IF A PERSON IS NOT DESTITUTE, CURRENTLY THEY MUST BE AT LEAST 65 YEARS OF AGE TO QUALIFY FOR ADMISSION.

I FEEL IT IS IMPORTANT TO DEFINE THE SPECIFIC ROLE OF THE PIONEERS' HOMES BECAUSE AT PRESENT THE WAITING LISTS FOR THE HOMES IS TREMENDOUS, ESPECIALLY FOR NURSING BEDS. MANDATING AGE 65 FOR ADMISSION WILL REMOVE ANY QUESTION ABOUT PERSONS YOUNGER THAN 65 GAINING ADMITTANCE TO THE HOMES AND ENABLE US TO PRESERVE THE CURRENT MISSION OF THE PIONEERS' HOME SYSTEM, AND THAT IS TO SERVE OUR LONG-TERM SENIOR CITIZENS.

I URGE YOU TO SCHEDULE SB 248 FOR A STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

ATTACHMENTS

RESOLUTION 09-23-88-2

WHEREAS integrity of the Pioneers' Home System must be preserved; and

WHEREAS the average age of applicants for residency in the system is increasing over the years and current residents now average in excess of 80 years; now

THEREFORE be it resolved the minimum age for residency in Pioneers' Homes be established at 65 years and be it further resolved and requested the Governor, Commissioner of Administration, and Director of the Division of Pioneers' Benefits act to implement the minimum age limit of 65 years.

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____ Agency Affected: Administration
 Title: An Act relating to requirements for BRU: Pioneers' Benefits
admission to the Pioneers' Home
 Sponsor: Senator Duncan Components: Pioneers' Home
 Requestor: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
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
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUE	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
TOTAL	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)

The average age of applicants to the Pioneers' Home is _____ years old. Increasing the minimum age to 65 years old for admission will have ver: _____ effect on the Homes' budget.

Prepared by: Barbara Bathony Phone: 465-4400
 Division: Pioneers' Benefits Date: 01/29/90
 Approved by Commissioner: Frank S. Baxter Date: 1/31/90
 Agency: Department of Administration

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

was taken within 90 days after the report was made. (§ 3 ch 42 SLA 1988)

Chapter 25. Destitute and Needy Persons.

Article

1. Pioneers' Home (§ 47.25.030)
2. General Relief Assistance (§§ 47.25.130, 47.25.195, 47.25.205, 47.25.230, 47.25.250)
3. Aid to Families with Dependent Children Act (§ 47.25.345)
4. Adult Public Assistance (§ 47.25.430)

Article 1. Pioneers' Home.

Section

30. Admission on payment

Sec. 47.25.030. Admission on payment. (a) A citizen of the United States over 65 years of age who is a resident of the state and has been a resident for not less than 15 years continuously immediately preceding application, but who is not destitute, may on application be admitted to the home upon agreement to pay to the state a sum for each day as the Department of Administration considers sufficient to compensate the state for the cost of care and support of the person at the home. When this agreement is entered into the Department of Administration may receive the security for the payments, which it considers expedient.

(b) The Department of Administration shall adopt regulations establishing a daily or monthly rate for the compensation a resident is to be charged under (a) of this section. The rate charged need not fully compensate the state for the cost of care and support. The commissioner of administration shall review the rate each year.

(c) The Department of Administration shall provide to all residents of the Pioneers' Home written notice of any proposed change in the rate charged for care and support of persons at the home. Notice under this section shall be given not less than 60 days before a change is adopted. The notice shall include the time, date, and place of a hearing to be held by the Department of Administration under (d) of this section. The department may not change the rate charged more than once in a fiscal year.

(d) Not less than 30 days before a proposed rate change is adopted, the Department of Administration shall conduct a hearing at which interested persons shall be given the opportunity to submit written or oral testimony, statements, arguments or contentions relating to the proposed rate change. The department shall consider all relevant matter presented to it before adopting a rate change.

(3) perform all executive or administrative duties necessary and advisable to carry out the purpose of AS 47.25.010 — 47.25.100, including the power to make contracts and to make disbursements on vouchers against funds for the purpose of AS 47.25.010 — 47.25.100, within the limit of funds available;

(4) study the needs of Alaska's pioneers and submit recommendations for new regulations and proposed legislation;

(5) prepare an annual report to the legislature.

(d) The Department of Administration may employ the necessary subordinate officers and employees, and shall prescribe methods for operation of the Pioneers' Home, standards of care and service to residents, and rules governing personnel and rewarding employees on a merit basis. (§ 51-2-11(a)(c) ACLA 1949; § 51-2-12 ACLA 1949; am § 1 ch 71 SLA 1963; am E.O. No. 30 (1968); am §§ 1, 2 ch 11 SLA 1979)

Sec. 47.25.020. Admission to home. (a) Every worthy person residing in the state who has been a resident of the state continuously for more than 15 years immediately preceding application for admission, and who is destitute and in need of the aid or benefit of the home because of physical disability or other cause, is entitled to admission to the home under the conditions, limitations and penalties prescribed by the regulations of the Department of Administration. A person may not be admitted as a resident of the Alaska Pioneers' Home under the provisions of AS 47.25.010 — 47.25.100 if the support and maintenance of the person is imposed by law upon a relative or member of the family of the person.

(b) Every person admitted to the Pioneers' Home, except a person admitted under AS 47.25.030, who receives income from any source in excess of \$100 per month may be required by the Department of Administration to pay the excess to the Department of Administration immediately upon receipt of the money in payment, or part payment, of the cost of the person's maintenance.

(c) At the end of each month the payments made under (b) of this section shall be transmitted to the commissioner of revenue together with the names of the persons making them and the amount paid by each. The Department of Administration may pay to a resident without funds the sum of \$100 per month.

(d) The money received by the commissioner of revenue shall be deposited in the general fund. (§ 51-2-13 ACLA 1949; am § 1 ch 158 SLA 1955; am § 1 ch 118 SLA 1957; am § 1 ch 89 SLA 1961; am § 1 ch 63 SLA 1965; am E.O. No. 30 (1968); am §§ 1, 2 ch 7 SLA 1971; am § 3 ch 11 SLA 1979; am §§ 1, 2 ch 155 SLA 1984)

Effect of amendments. — The 1984 amendment substituted "\$100 per" for "\$35 a" and "the person's" for "his" in subsection (b) and "to a resident without funds

the sum of \$100 per month" for "the sum of \$35 a month to a resident without funds" in subsection (c).

Chapter 25. Destitute and Needy Persons.

Article

1. Pioneers' Home (§§ 47.25.010 — 47.25.100)
2. General Relief Assistance (§§ 47.25.120 — 47.25.300)
3. Aid to Families with Dependent Children Act (§§ 47.25.310 — 47.25.420)
4. Adult Public Assistance (§§ 47.25.430 — 47.25.615)
5. Food Stamp Program (§§ 47.25.975 — 47.25.990)

Article 1. Pioneers' Home.

Section	Section
10. Maintenance of Alaska Pioneers' Home	60. Trust fund
20. Admission to home	70. Indebtedness of Pioneer's Home resident to state
30. Admission on payment	80. Enforcement against estate
35. Exception to admission criteria	90. Enforcement against property outside state
40. Transfer of insane inmates to asylum or sanitarium	100. Certificate as evidence
50. Maintenance funds	

Cross references. — For the exclusion purposes of comprehensive health planning, see AS 18.07.111(7).
of the Alaska Pioneers' Home from the definition of health care facility for

Sec. 47.25.010. Maintenance of Alaska Pioneers' Home. (a) The state shall maintain an institution for the care of needy persons, known as the Alaska Pioneers' Home. The principal home shall be maintained at Sitka, and a branch may be maintained at a site or sites designated by the commissioner of administration.

(b) The Department of Administration shall formulate general policies, but has no administrative or executive functions other than those set out in AS 47.25.010 — 47.25.100. It may hold hearings and subpoena witnesses and documents and may administer oaths in connection with them.

(c) The Department of Administration shall

(1) cooperate with the federal government in matters pertaining to the welfare of Alaskan pioneers, make the reports in the form and containing the information the federal government from time to time desires, and accepts funds allotted by the federal government, its agencies or instrumentalities, in establishing, extending and strengthening services for pioneers of Alaska;

(2) adopt regulations necessary for the conduct of the business of the Pioneers' Home and for carrying out the provisions of AS 47.25.010 — 47.25.100, require bonds and undertakings from persons employed by it as in its judgment are necessary, and pay the premiums on them, and establish regional and local offices and the advisory groups which are necessary or considered expedient to carry out or assist in carrying out a duty or authority assigned to it;

Sec. 47.25.030. Admission on payment. (a) A citizen of the United States over 65 years of age who is a resident of the state and has been a resident for not less than 15 years continuously immediately preceding application, but who is not destitute, may on application be admitted to the home upon agreement to pay to the state a sum for each day as the Department of Administration considers sufficient to compensate the state for the cost of care and support of the person at the home. When this agreement is entered into the Department of Administration may receive the security for the payments, which it considers expedient.

(b) The Department of Administration shall adopt regulations establishing a daily or monthly rate for the compensation a resident is to be charged under (a) of this section. The rate charged need not fully compensate the state for the cost of care and support. The commissioner of administration shall review the rate each year.

(c) The Department of Administration shall provide to all residents of the Pioneers' Home written notice of any proposed change in the rate charged for care and support of persons at the home. Notice under this section shall be given not less than 60 days before a change is adopted. The notice shall include the time, date, and place of a hearing to be held by the Department of Administration under (d) of this section. The department may not change the rate charged more than once in a fiscal year.

(d) Not less than 30 days before a proposed rate change is adopted, the Department of Administration shall conduct a hearing at which interested persons shall be given the opportunity to submit written or oral testimony, statements, arguments or contentions relating to the proposed rate change. The department shall consider all relevant matter presented to it before adopting a rate change. (§ 51-2-14 ACLA 1949; am § 2 ch 89 SLA 1961; am E.O. No. 30 (1968); am § 3 ch 155 SLA 1984)

Effect of amendments. — The 1984 amendment added subsections (b)-(d).

Sec. 47.25.035. Exception to admission criteria. An applicant for admission to the home who has been a resident of the state for 30 years and is otherwise qualified for admission under AS 47.25.020 or 47.25.030 may not be disqualified for admission because of absence from the state if the commissioner of administration determines the absence was reasonable and admission is consistent with the intent of this chapter. (§ 2 ch 89 SLA 1978)

Sec. 47.25.040. Transfer of insane inmates to asylum or sanitarium. A person regularly admitted into the home who is found to be insane may be transferred to an institution provided for the care and custody of insane persons for the state in the manner provided by

law for the admission of other persons to the institution. (§ 51-2-15 ACLA 1949)

Sec. 47.25.050. Maintenance funds. The legislature shall each session appropriate the necessary funds for the maintenance of the home to be expended by the Department of Administration, and that department may receive funds, donations and bequests from private individuals, societies or organizations, and funds from the federal government for the support and maintenance of the home. (§ 51-2-16 ACLA 1949; am E.O. No. 30 (1968))

Sec. 47.25.060. Trust fund. Unless otherwise provided by the donor, money bequeathed to the Alaska Pioneers' Home constitutes a special trust and shall be deposited in a special fund designated the "Alaska Pioneers' Home Trust Fund." Unless otherwise provided by the donor, interest from this fund is under the control and at the disposal of the Department of Administration, and expenditure from it is limited to the benefit and comfort of the residents of the home. (§ 51-2-17 ACLA 1949; am E.O. No. 30 (1968))

Sec. 47.25.070. Indebtedness of Pioneers' Home resident to state. (a) The following expenses incurred for a Pioneers' Home resident under AS 47.25.010 — 47.25.100 and not recoverable from a collateral source are a debt of the resident to the state and may be recovered during the life of the resident:

(1) costs of standard or nursing care provided in the Pioneers' Home each month to the resident not exceeding the rate established by the Department of Administration under AS 47.25.030, with credit given for any amounts paid by or collected from the resident;

(2) allowances paid under AS 47.25.020(c);

(3) costs of hospitalization and medical treatment provided outside the Pioneers' Home;

(4) arrearages in fees for television and telephone services provided in the Pioneers' Home;

(5) prescription medicine; and

(6) burial and related expenses.

(b) The debt is a first, prior and preferred claim against the estate of the Pioneers' Home resident after the resident's death, and after all claims for food, clothing, fuel, shelter, medical aid, or burial expenses are paid. Heirlooms without regard to value are exempt from a claim by the state under this section.

(c) Money left in charge of the Department of Administration by a deceased resident of the Pioneers' Home may be used for the burial and funeral expenses of the resident and for the improvement of the burial plot of the Pioneers' Home.

(d) The clothing and other personal effects left by a deceased Pioneers' Home resident may be used for the benefit of other residents, or may be given to relatives or to persons designated by the resident,

§ 47.25.080 WELFARE, SOCIAL SERVICES AND INSTITUTIONS § 47.25.100

or sold and the proceeds applied in the manner provided for money left by a deceased resident.

(e) In this section, "heirloom" means personal property of sentimental value to a Pioneers' Home resident that has been in the possession of the resident's family or was a gift to the resident. (§ 51-2-101 ACLA 1949; am E.O. No. 30 (1968); am §§ 4, 5 ch 11 SLA 1979; am § 4 ch 155 SLA 1984)

Effect of amendments. — The 1984 amendment rewrote this section.

NOTES TO DECISIONS

Conduct of decedent entitling claim of state to priority. — Where (1) the decedent swears initially and annually thereafter that she owns no property, although during all that time she has approximately \$10,000 in cash; and (2) the

transfer thereof is without consideration, the claim of the state is entitled to priority in conformity with the provisions of this section. In re Jackson's Estate, 15 Alaska 116, 123 F. Supp. 143 (D. Alaska 1954).

Sec. 47.25.080. Enforcement against estate. If a beneficiary under AS 47.25.010 — 47.25.100 dies leaving an estate in the state, the attorney general or the Department of Administration shall file with the executor or administrator, or with the probate court, the claim of the state against the estate, and the attorney general shall take the steps necessary to enforce and collect the claim. Money collected shall be paid into the treasury of the state. (§ 51-2-102 ACLA 1949; am § 1 ch 46 SLA 1957; am E.O. No. 30 (1968))

NOTES TO DECISIONS

Applied in In re Jackson's Estate, 15 Alaska 116, 123 F. Supp. 143 (D. Alaska 1954).

Sec. 47.25.090. Enforcement against property outside state. If a resident under AS 47.25.010 — 47.25.100 dies leaving property outside the state, the attorney general on direction of the governor shall take the steps with respect to the property which will protect and secure the rights of the state as a creditor. (§ 51-2-103 ACLA 1949)

Sec. 47.25.100. Certificate as evidence. A certificate by the attorney general to the effect that a decedent was a beneficiary under AS 47.25.010 — 47.25.100 and that the state has a claim against the decedent's estate, is prima facie evidence of these facts in a proceeding in the courts of the state. (§ 51-2-104 ACLA 1949; am § 2 ch 46 SLA 1957)

Feb 15 1968

Mr. [Name], 2166
[Address]
[City, State, Zip]

Re: [Topic]

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you regarding the [Topic] of [Subject]. I have thought a great deal about this issue. At the point I am writing you, [Detail]

I am sure you will find this [Detail] of interest.

[Faded paragraph of text]

[Faded paragraph of text]

[Faded closing text]

Comments on Pioneers' Homes Admissions
SB 248, SB 389



SB 248 Sponsor Senator Duncan and SB 389 Sponsor Senator Pourchot

Senate Bill 248: "An act relating to the requirements for admission to the Pioneers' Home" and SB 389 "An Act relating to the Pioneers' Homes" address admission criteria to the Homes. It is then suggestion of the Division that the bills be combined. We have three areas of concern.

EXISTING CRITERIA

Residency

Currently all applicants must meet the 15 year residency requirement immediately preceding entry into the Home.

Indigent (Destitute) Applicants

Destitute applicants in need of the aid and benefit of the Home are entitled to enter the Home and do not have to be at least 65 years of age.

Destitute applicants not in need of the care of the Homes are technically excluded from entry into the Homes.

Other Applicants

Applicants who are able to pay the rent and are 65 years of age or older may be admitted on a space available basis, and no need criterion is specified.

SUGGESTED CRITERIA

Concern #1 (Age 65): The Division provides service to a geriatric population. Time, effort, and funding has gone into the education of the staff in the specialized field of geriatric long-term care. The Central Office has a Geriatric Nurse Consultant, and the Homes have at least seven certified geriatric nurses and one certified geriatric nurse practitioner.

The average age of residents is about 82 and the average age of applicants has risen dramatically to above 85, and almost 90 in Ketchikan. It is not feasible to change care systems to include the needs of an occasional much younger resident. The Division therefore, supports limiting admission to only applicants at least 65 years of age.

Comments on Pioneers' Homes Admissions (continued)

SB 248, SB 389

Concern #2 (Destitute): At the present time destitute and in need applicants (15 years and older) have priority for admission over others. Destitute applicants who are not in medical or social need, and applicants who are not destitute but are in desperate need of services, have no chance to enter the Home because of the lengthy waiting lists.

A destitute applicant has other resources such as Medicaid available to them, and may live in a long-term care facility and receive care paid for partially by the state.

Presently, the Division has to admit a technically applicant ahead of a person who does not have enough money to pay for necessary care. A person who cannot qualify for Medicaid, and therefor, is in desperate need of care and benefits of the Home. The Division would like to be able to admit all applicants meeting the age, residency, and need requirements on the same basis, giving those applicants who are unable to secure care, a chance to receive the benefits of the Home.

The division would still admit destitute applicants, but not on a priority basis. This change would slightly increase the program receipts by the collection of increased rents payable by non-destitute applicants.

Concern #3 (Need for Service): Destitute applicants of any age must be, "in need of the aid or benefit of the Home because of physical disability or other cause..." while non-destitute applicants over 65 years of age may be admitted with no discernible need. We feel destitute applicants should be able to enter the Home under the same guidelines (excluding financial) as non-destitute. Both groups should show a need of the aid and benefit of the Home.

The division, through many contacts from the community, has been encouraged not to admit applicants if they are not in medical, physical, or social need of the aid or benefit of the Home. Applicants expect to come into the Home receiving assisted living i.e. with laundry services, medication assistance, assistance with activities of daily living, etc. (see attached graph of housing study). In the OAC Housing Survey of Fall 1988 a question about the assumed care available in the Pioneers' Home residential section indicates the general misunderstanding that the division has all these services available in the residential sections of the Homes. This is not available in the residential section.

Seniors have many of these services available in the community and do not want to come into residential care until they "have" to. Therefore, we have many empty rooms.

Comments on Pioneers' Homes Admissions (continued)
SB 248, SB 389

Almost all applicants require significant services found in a long-term care facility and it is not efficient for the state to use valuable space in the Homes for purely retirement housing. The division suggests that the admission criteria be changed to include only those applicants who are in "need of the aid and benefit of the Pioneers' Homes because of physical disability or other cause..." and are geriatric clients. One exception is requested: a spouse over 65 years of age may enter with a spouse in need of care.

The effect of this change would be an increase in the current 60 vacant residential beds until the Division is able to convert residential beds to assisted living beds. Waiting lists for assisted living beds are steadily growing. This proposed change to more assisted living beds would make it possible for Pioneers and Seniors who had been waiting for many years, and were not eligible for other care (either not eligible for Medicaid or not enough income to pay for private care), to enter the homes.

Concern #3 includes residents who come into the Pioneers' Home when not in need of any care and are not destitute because they are afraid they would never be able to enter the Home if they waited too long. Our suggested change would ~~allow~~ only those applicants to apply who are in need of the Homes. Therefore the Division would have more vacancies, freeing rooms which would be otherwise occupied by very independent persons not in need of any care. Of course all present residents need to be grandfathered in, no one will be asked to move out if they are not in need of the care of the Homes.

Summary

The Division suggests the change of the admission criteria to include only those Alaskan seniors and pioneers who are in need of the aid and benefit of the Homes and are 65 years and over. No priority for any admission except first come, first serve. Attached are several diagrams showing the simplified admission process on SB 248, SB 389, present admission policy and the proposed Division suggestion. The Division of Pioneers' Benefits believes that the future trend is for the Pioneers' Home is to fill the gap between Home care and full scale subacute/skilled nursing

Comments on Pioneers' Homes Admissions (continued)

SB 248, SB 389

care. It is the philosophy of the Pioneers' Homes system to foster independence and to support Alaskans to live in their Home as long as possible.

Barbara Bathony
Barbara Bathony, Director
Division of Pioneers' Benefits

2-2-1990
Date

BB/mem/position

Attachments

cc: Frank C. Baxter, Commissioner
Department of Administration

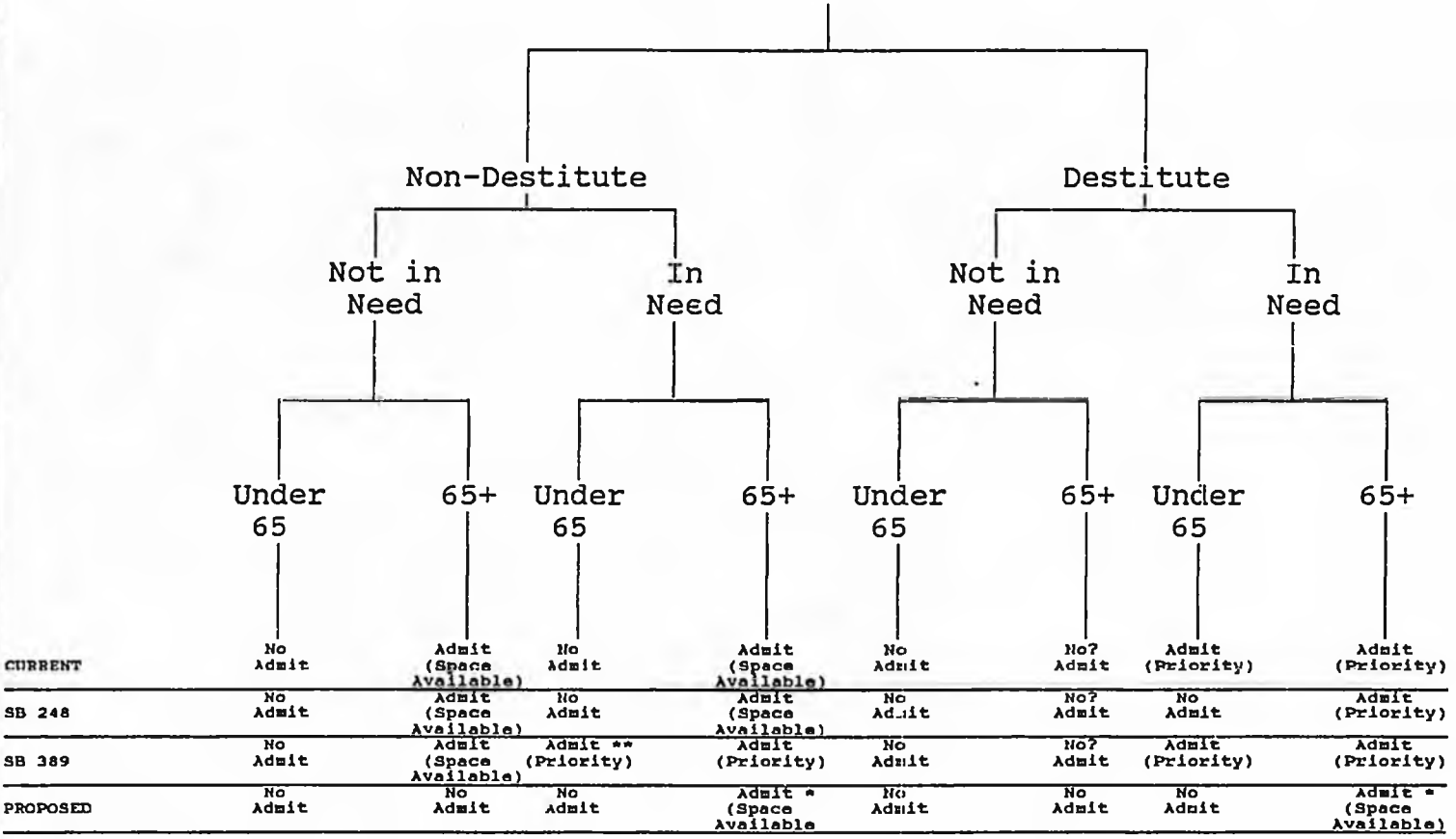
James J. Fox, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Administration

Sioux Plummer, Legislative Liaison
Department of Administration

ALASKA PIONEERS' HOMES
ADMISSION STANDARDS



15-Year Resident



*Spouses of eligible applicants age 65 and over meeting all requirements but not in need of aid or benefit of the Homes may also be admitted.

**The Division of Pioneers' Benefits does not believe this is the intent of SB 389.

*Rayanne
Pett*

RECEIVED JAN 15 1990

**LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
OF
THE PIONEERS OF ALASKA**

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1. During this session of the Legislature the Pioneers are most interested in protecting the Senior programs presently in place. We prefer the \$250.00 monthly bonus program remain as it is, however, rather than see it suffer major setbacks, the Grand Igloo supports an annuity program as introduced by Senator Kerttula.

2. The Pioneers support a requirement of 65 years of age as a minimum for admission to the Pioneer Home system, and removal of the word 'destitute' as is presently used in giving priority for admission.

3. The Pioneers support full state funding to cover property tax exemptions for Seniors.

A

4. The Pioneers support in-Home Support Care and Senior Housing. Re: HB 218; SB 150.

5. The Pioneers support Health Care legislation. Re: HB 47.

6. Also, it has been noted, from a recent news article that Sen Uehling has prefiled legislation that would give Medicare eligible Senior an option to choose to receive health care under Medicaid at home rather than in a Long Term Care facility. The Pioneers certainly support this concept.

The Pioneers have taken no position regarding a State Income Tax or the Governor's proposal on an Education Endowment.

The Pioneer's registered lobbyist is Bill Ray, 165 Behrends Ave, Juneau, AK, 99801, Tel: (907) 586-1225

Bob Huffman, Chm.
Legislative Committee
Pioneers of Alaska

RESOLUTION 09-23-88-2

WHEREAS integrity of the Pioneers' Home System must be preserved; and

WHEREAS the average age of applicants for residency in the system is increasing over the years and current residents now average in excess of 80 years; now

THEREFORE be it resolved the minimum age for residency in Pioneers' Homes be established at 65 years and be it further resolved and requested the Governor, Commissioner of Administration, and Director of the Division of Pioneers' Benefits act to implement the minimum age limit of 65 years.

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April 03, 1989
P.O. Box 870178
Wasilla, Alaska 99687

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
Senator Jim Duncan
P.O. Box V Juneau, Alaska 99811-3100

Re: SB 248

In response your letter to me, April 5, 1989.

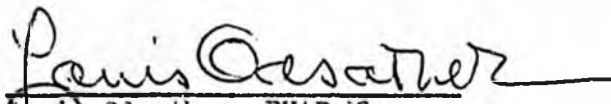
Minimum Age 65, Admission Pioneer Home.

Your SB 248 is the best news that we of the Pioneer Homes Advisory Board have received, over these past many years.

For many years, and in the course of the past two or more Dept. of Administration Commissioners we of the Board have tried, pleaded, and urged the minimum age 65 requirement. Their reluctance to respond to our requests was for reasons of "disrupting", exposing, and bringing to issue, the residency requirement of 15 years. We of the Board, however, felt strongly, and as proven by our Pioneer Convention meeting in Sitka, 1988, our presentation of this resolution for their adoption was unanimously agreed.

We of the Board cannot thank you enough for sponsoring this Bill. It may raise the hassles of those who wish to continue our plight into oblivion, but as we of the Board feel, -- let us face the issues and come to realities that we must preserve our 75 year history of providing the Nations best Elderly Care, second to none.

Respectfully and Sincerely,


Louis Odsather, PHAB Mbr.

CC Robert Gore