

**HB**

**93**

**HFIN**

**FILE**

# HCUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)\*

Date Referred: April 7, 1993

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 4/11/93

The FINANCE Committee considered:

HB 93

HOUSE BILL NO. 93

VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS PROGRAM

"An Act relating to the village public safety officers program."

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

be replaced with CS HB 93 (CPA)  the same title  a new title

have attached amendments(s)

do pass

do not pass

no recommendations

individual recommendations

additional referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

fiscal impact \_\_\_\_\_

fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

zero fiscal note \_\_\_\_\_

zero fiscal note(s) PS 3/26/93

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Eileen P. Maclean</i>	✓				
<i>Ronald J. Larson</i>	x				
<i>Terry Masten</i>	✓				
<i>John Farrell</i>	✓				
<i>Ben Edwards</i>	✓				
<i>Fay Brown</i>	✓	<i>Therriault</i>			
<i>Richard Storey</i>	x	<i>Therriault</i>		x	
<i>Footers</i>					

*Ronald J. Larson* *EP Maclean*  
CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

# FISCAL NOTE

R10 4/16/93

STATE OF ALASKA  
1993 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO: CSHB 93

Revision \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Public Safety  
 Title: "An Act relating to the village  
public safety officers program." BRU: Alaska State Troopers  
 Sponsor: Representative Foster Component: Detachments  
 Requestor: Representative Foster COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 799

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars) (inflation not included)**

OPERATING	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>CAPITAL</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
REVENUE FUND SOURCE:						

**FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)**

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
<b>TOTAL</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

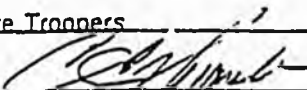
**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year (FY 93) impact: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

No significant fiscal impact upon the Alaska State Troopers is anticipated.

Prepared By: Francis C. Allan Phone: 269-6691  
 Division: Alaska State Troopers Date: 3/3/93  
 Approved by Commissioner:  Date: 3/4/93  
 Agency: Richard J. Burton, Dept. of Public Safety

PREPARER TO PROCURE LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

For file

FISCAL NOTE

Office

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Back-up

SPONSOR STATEMENT

CSHB 93 (CRA)

An Act Relating to the Village Public Safety Officers Program  
Representative Richard Foster

This bill would place the Village Public Safety Officer Program into the Alaska Statutes.

The sparsely inhabited communities in rural Alaska face challenges to public safety for individuals threatened with losses to life and property. Every community in the state requires public safety services. The VPSO program, created in 1980, addresses those critical public safety issues in rural Alaskan communities such as reducing loss of life due to fires, drownings, missing persons, and first provider of emergency medical assistance. The VPSO is the trained individual in the community to provide an immediate response to law enforcement issues. The VPSO, as an extension of the Alaska State Troopers, handles serious law enforcement matters until trooper assistance comes upon the scene. The first rung on a public safety career path for interested rural residents is through becoming a trained Village Public Safety Officer.

The VPSO's are the vital partners to the mission of the Department of Public Safety effort in rural Alaska. This bill will formally institute the VPSO program in Alaska statutes, and formalize the program in the Department of Public Safety. This action will enable the department, through regulations, to establish criteria for entry and participation of interested individuals, implement training standards, and provide uniform administrative parameters for the statewide program. Finally, passage of this bill will instill pride within the ranks of those VPSO's now in the frontline public safety efforts in rural Alaska.

BILL NO: CSHB 93

DATE: March 3, 1993

**TITLE:** "An Act relating to the  
village public safety  
officers program"

**CONTACT:** C.E. Swackhammer  
Deputy Commissioner  
465-4322

POSITION PAPER - Department of Public Safety

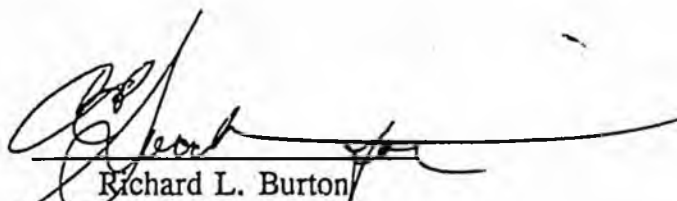
CSHB 93 amends AS 18.65 Police Protection by adding the Village Public Safety Officer Program to the Department of Public Safety's mandated programs, to aid in meeting the Department's responsibility to provide basic public safety services and law enforcement services to Alaska's rural communities. The bill provides the Commissioner with the authority to provide grants to nonprofit regional corporations for village public safety officers.

The Commissioner may adopt regulations related to VPSOs and training requirements for officers and criteria for community participation in this public safety program.

This bill will formalize the Village Public Safety Officer Program as an official responsibility of the Department of Public Safety. The program has informally been associated with the Alaska State Troopers for over twelve years. The passage of the bill is the first step to the orderly progression of this program from a pilot grant endeavor to a career. The results of this bill will be the advancement of qualified persons, skilled in meeting the first responder requirements of delivering public safety in rural villages, to the level of a profession. The ability to regulate the course of the program and its future, define how communities participate, and address the structure of the program will provide management tools to ensure sound efficient use of state resources.

The flexibility of being able to provide grants to nonprofit regional corporations for these services provides the Department the opportunity to continue to encourage village and regional participation in identifying public safety needs and priorities at their level, as well as allowing for the Department to assess the most cost effective approaches to delivering public safety and law enforcement services to rural communities.

The Department of Public Safety does not believe the passage of this bill will have a fiscal impact on the Department. Since this is the foundation step for formalizing and addressing future public safety and law enforcement needs in rural Alaska, this bill requires only that this program be considered as part of the overall mission of the Department.

  
Richard L. Burton  
Commissioner

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

1992 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 92 - 57

TITLE: SUPPORTING VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS

WHEREAS: community based public safety programs are required to maintain public safety in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: in 1981, the State Department of Public Safety started the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program, a community based public safety program, to address law enforcement, fire protection and search and rescue needs in rural Alaska's remote village; and

WHEREAS: since its inception, the VPSO program has dramatically improved public safety in rural Alaskan villages;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that delegates to the 1992 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., endorses continuation and strengthening of the Village Public Safety Office Program and calls upon the Legislature to establish the VPSO program in state statute.

SUBMITTED BY: Bristol Bay Native Association

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: Do Pass

CONVENTION ACTION: Do Pass



mark

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, INC.  
Executive Board of Directors

Resolution 93-03

Village Public Safety Officers Program

Whereas, Senator Al Adams of the Alaska Eighteenth Legislature -First Session has introduced Senate Bill Number 15, and

Whereas, Senate Bill Number 15 addresses essential aspects of the Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO) Program, including training and compensation, and


Whereas, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. (TCC) employees VPSO's for the benefit of member villages,

Now Therefore be it Resolved that TCC supports Senate Bill Number 15 and urges the Alaska Legislature to pass this bill into law.

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc, Executive Board of Directors on January 14, 1993 at Fairbanks, Alaska and that a quorum was duly established.



  
Jgnathon Solomon, Sr.  
Secretary/Treasurer

NORTH AND NORTHWEST ALASKA MAYORS' CONFERENCE  
KOTZEBUE, ALASKA  
FEBRUARY 18 & 19, 1993

RESOLUTION NO. 93-37

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER (VPSO) PROGRAM TO BE INCLUDED IN THE ALASKA STATUTES. REFERENCE SENATE BILL NO. 15 & HOUSE BILL NO. 93.

WHEREAS: the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program has been of vital importance in rural Alaska for twelve (12) years and VPSO's provide a difficult and critical service to safeguard the lives and property of all residents in their communities; and

WHEREAS: in addition to law enforcement, VPSO's provide a broad range of public safety services, including emergency medical services, fire protection and prevention, water safety, and search and rescue; and

WHEREAS: VPSO's are expected to be on call 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year with no trained relief, and are often personally confronted with life threatening situations while being grossly underpaid; and

WHEREAS: the North and Northwest Alaska Mayors support the Village Public Safety Officer Program in rural Alaska, recognizing the VPSO Program as the first, immediate, and often only public safety service available in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: the North and Northwest Alaska Mayors recommend that the State of Alaska formalize the VPSO Program by Alaska Statutory recognition to assure the future of service. Presently, the VPSO Program exists as a budgetary line item in the Department of Public Safety's annual budget. Statutory authority would legitimize and put VPSO Program standards and procedures into the Alaska Administrative Code, thus providing a mechanism for annual legislative review; and

WHEREAS: the North and Northwest Alaska Mayors also support a significant FY94 budget increase for the VPSO Program. Especially in the areas of training, equipment, and salaries; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CONFERENCE: that the Mayors of North and Northwest Alaska urge the Alaska State Legislature to pass Senate Bill No. 15 and House Bill No. 93; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE NORTH AND NORTHWEST ALASKA MAYORS' CONFERENCE THAT: we urge Governor Walter J. Hickel and the Alaska State Legislature to educate themselves on the current plight of the VPSO Program and to work with the VPSO Nonprofit Corporation managers and the Department of Public Safety to obtain a needs based Legislative Supplement which will address

the salary needs, equipment, training, and oversight needs of the program for FY94 and beyond.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the first session of the fourteenth annual North and Northwest Alaska Mayors' Conference this \_\_\_\_\_ day of February, 1993.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY

INTRODUCED BY:           *nmk*          

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

VOTE: YES: \_\_\_ NO: \_\_\_

DIRECTED TO: Governor Walter J. Hickel  
Alaska State Legislature  
State of Alaska Department of Public Safety  
Regional Non-profit Corporations

*Passed  
Under*

*Ward*

City Council  
City of Atka  
P. O. Box 47070  
Atka, Alaska 99547-0070

Senator Al Adams  
P. O. Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

February 3, 1993

Dear Senator:

We are writing to endorse support for Senate Bill 15.

We thank you for introducing this bill for several reasons. We consider transfer of the VPSO program to the state statutes a wise move. In addition to being under the review of the state legislature, we think that the VPSO program would maintain higher integrity and consistency.

Thank you.

Signed,

*Michael Singewell*  
Mayor

Atka City Council

Traditional Eagle Village Council  
PO Box 19  
Eagle Alaska 99738

Attn. Senator Georgiana Lincoln, Representative Eileen Nicholas  
We the members of Eagle Village Council support the VPSO Program  
100% and we also support Senate Bill #15 to put VPSO's into the  
Alaska State Statutes,

Thank You for your time and we will be anxiously awaiting the  
outcome of Senate Bill #15.

Sincerely; Eagle Village Council  
Council Members,

*Matthew Malcolm*  
*Ethel Beck*  
*Oliver Lyman*  
*Rebecca Malcolm*  
*Norman David*  
*Bartha Ulyi*

Matthew Malcolm, Chief  
Ethel Beck 2nd Chief  
Oliver Lyman, Council Member  
Rebecca Malcolm, Council Member  
Norman David, Council Member  
Bartha Ulyi, Council Member

St. George Office:

P.O. Box 929  
St. George, Alaska 99591-0929  
Tel: (907) 859-2263  
Fax: (907) 859-2212



*main*  
Anchorage Office:

4000 Old Seward Hwy., Suite 301  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Tel: 561-2124  
Fax: (907) 561-4674

Senator Al Adams  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Adams,

The V.P.S.O. Program has been an essential part of the booming, but orderly growth, of the "outback" rural communities of Alaska. Time and time again the rural radio stations of Nome, Dillingham and St. Paul Island, broadcast on their news hour how VPSO's have intervened with otherwise lawless towns of our State's far flung communities. In some cases giving up their lives for their committment to law and order.

At St. George a Harbor was built to enhance a stable economy for our community, along with this harbor we get processors who house three hundred fifty respectfully, each. With two floating processor's who dwarf our community of one hundred eighty people and no law enforcement personnel except for one VPSO. We have begun to realize in this community how valuable this position can be. These processors are "dry" companys which means no alcohol consumption is allowed among their workers, however at times some individuals have obtained alcohol and tend to consume until they are in a state of mind which is a danger to themselves, other processors, property and the St. George Community members. Most of these workers are on 30, 60, and 90 day contracts with these seafood processors. When the contract is up these individuals first thoughts are of obtaining alcohol for the soul purpose of getting inebriated in the shortest time possible and when that happens to many individuals all at one time we have a problem. The crab season of 1992 here in the Bering Sea attested to the above problems that only a VPSO can handle safely and correctly. We don't expect the crab season of 1993 to be any different. One finally comment is that the VPSO's in Alaska are the Eyes and Ears of the State Troopers. Thank You for your time.

Sincerely ;

*Gregory P. McGlashan*  
Gregory P. McGlashan  
Harbormaster  
City Councilman

# Allakaket Village Council

P.O. BOX 30 ALLAKAKET, ALASKA 99720  
(907) 968-2241

*Handwritten signature*

February 4, 1993

Tanana Chiefs Conference  
122 First Avenue  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

We strongly support the Villages Public Safety Officer positions for the rural areas, mainly because the villages are located in remote areas where the State Troopers cannot respond to calls fast enough to prevent violence or crimes from happening.

Since we have had a Village Public Safety Officer located in our village, we have seen a decrease in suicides, domestic violence, and public disturbances.

I strongly recommend that Tanana Chiefs Conference continue to secure funding for this much needed service to the rural villages.

Sincerely,

*Sally M. Sam*

Sally M. Sam  
City Administrator



# CITY OF MC GRATH

P. O. BOX 30 McGRATH, ALASKA 99627  
PHONE (907) 824-3828  
FAX (907) 824-3538  
January 29, 1993

Ms. Daisy Stevens  
VFSO Coordinator  
Tanana Chiefs Conference  
122 First Ave.  
Fairbanks, AK. 99701

Dear Ms. Stevens,

The City of McGrath would like to express their support of the VFSO program as an essential service to rural areas. We are in favor of Senate bill 15, which would make the program permanently funded. We hope the bill will pass and the program will be funded enough to raise the pay for these dedicated, underpaid people. If we can do anything to help in this matter, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Sincerely,

*Glen A. Harway*  
Glen A. Harway  
Mayor

cc: Senator Lincoln

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BEAVER TRIBAL COUNCIL  
P.O. BOX 24029  
BEAVER, AK 99724  
(907) 628-6126  
FAX 628-6812

January 29, 1993

Daisy Stevens,  
V.P.S.O Coordinator  
Tanana Chiefs Conference  
122 First Avenue  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

RE: Importance of V.P.S.O. program

Dear Daisy,

The Village of Beaver would like to suffer tremendously if the V.P.S.O. Program is cut, because of the following reasons:

1. He assist the CHA's with emergencies.
2. He teaches Fire prevention, snowmachine safety, gun safety, boat safety, to our children at the school.
3. He checks our fire alarms, fire extinguishers and make sure all equipment is in working order.
4. Enforces curfew, organized a search party for over due residents via snowmachine or boat.

For these reasons we feel that the V.P.S.O. program should be a permanent position, and because of the cuts in the State Trooper positions statewide.

Sincerely,

*Arlene Pitka*

Beaver Tribal Council  
Arlene Pitka, Chief

cc: Greg Hope  
files

\*\*\*\*\*  
FAX TRANSMITTAL MEMO

TO: Sen. Al Adams  
DEPT: CRA Committee FAX #: 465-3242  
FROM: C. Wheeler PHONE: 443-5533  
CO: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post-It brand fax transmittal memo 7871

NO. OF  
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January 27, 1998

The Honorable Al Adams  
Senator  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1102

Senator Adams:

I support S.B. #15, statutory recognition of the V.P.S.U. program which is years, long overdue.

Those who have served and presently make that commitment to public service risk their lives; relinquish kin relationships; seldom receive recognition for a job well-done (on a daily basis); and serve for 'token' compensation. Their duties and responsibilities are paramount with personal sacrifice on a 24-hour basis. Most generally, they are the first on-the-scene as local police officer; coordinator/leader for search and rescue operations; emergency medical technicians; and as well as liaison to the State Troopers, who respond and are on the scene hours if not days later.

Formalizing the V.P.S.U. program would bring a much greater professional atmosphere, provide greater retention of personnel, a continuous on-going training program, and should provide for a reasonable pay schedule.

Basic law enforcement and public safety services are as important in villages as in urban communities and the value of human life must not be diminished because some choose to live in rural Alaska. They deserve better.

Thank you for your sincere consideration



L.C. Wheeler  
POB 1209  
Nome, Alaska 99762-1209