

SB

70

HFIN

FILE

d.

(11)
Date Referred: May 8, 1994

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT
FURTHER REFERRALS:

5/9/94
Rules

Date of Committee Action: 5/9/94

The FINANCE Committee considered:

CSSB 70(L&C)

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 70(L&C)

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN GUARANTEES

"An Act establishing a loan guarantee and interest rate subsidy program for assistive technology."

RECOMMENDATIONS:
be replaced with # CS CSSB 70 (Fin) [] 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: 2/23/94 (Dept/Date)
DOE

[] fiscal impact _____
[] zero fiscal note _____

fiscal note(s) _____
[] zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
Ronald J. Larson	X				
Terry Martin	X				
Mike Harley	X				
Sean Parnell	X				
Jim Gussendorf	X				
Tom Hoffmann					
Mike Savare	✓				
Tom Brown	✓				
Con Theriault	X	Theriault			
Richard [unclear]	X	Foster			

(10)

CO-CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE
Larson

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

2
Bill Version: SB 70
BI (S) Publish Date: 2-23-94

Effective Date: February 22, 1994 Dept. Affected: Education
 Title: An Act establishing a loan guarantee BRU: Vocational Rehabilitation
 and interest rate subsidy program for Assistive Component: Assistive Technology
 Sponsor: Senator Duncan Technology
 Author: Senator Duncan COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 1202

Expenditures/Revenues	(Thousands of Dollars)					
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS	100.0	100.0	100.0	0	0	0
TOTAL OPERATING	100.0	100.0	100.0	0	0	0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE	(Thousands of Dollars)					
002 Federal Receipts	100.0	100.0	100.0	0	0	0
003 GF Match						
004 GF						
005 GF/Program Receipts						
006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	0	0	0

Estimate of any current year (FY94) cost: \$ 0

POSITIONS						
FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

See attached

Changes in SB 70 (L.C.)
 reflect NO FISCAL CHANGE from the original
 fiscal note. This fiscal note is appropriate.
2/22/94 APF
 date Comte Aide (initial)

Prepared by: Ralph J. Anderson, Director Phone: 465-6922
 Division: Vocational Rehabilitation Date: February 22, 1994
 Approved by Commissioner: [Signature] Date: 2-22-94
 Agency: Department of Education

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FISCAL NOTE

State of Alaska
1993 Legislative Session

BILL NO. SB 70

Title: An Act establishing a
loan guarantee and interest rate
subsidy program for Assistive
Technology.

Department Affected: Education
BRU: Vocational Education
Component: Assistive Technology

Sponsor: Senator Duncan
Requestor: Senator Duncan

The Assistive Technology of Alaska (ATA) Advisory Board has recommended to the division that we investigate using federal funds generated through the ATA project to fund the Technology Loan Fund. With this direction we have proposed to the federal funding agency a plan to fund the loan program by using federal receipts instead of state capital or general funds.

If approved ATA's fourth year grant includes a plan by which grant funds can be used to establish the loan fund. This would provide seed money to establish the loan fund. If this bill becomes law, the division can, by July 30, provide approximately 100.0 for this purpose. It is our understanding that this amount of money can be leveraged into as much as 750.0 as a guarantee and interest buy down depending on how the banking industry recommends the loans be set-up. This legislation forms a partnership between private industry and government to meet the needs of Alaskans with disabilities.

No additional staff cost.

Initial funding 100.0 from federal receipts, one year capitalization only.

Back-up

1 Adopted

Page 3, lines 2-3:

delete: "if there is less than \$200,000 in the assistive technology loan guarantee fund or"

This language would mean that only amounts **over** \$200,000 could be used to guarantee loans or subsidize interest rates. The base \$200,000 would be sitting in the fund with no purpose.

Add an immediate effective date for Sec. 2.

This would allow DVR to deposit federal funds from FY 94 into the account, allowing more money to be available sooner.

Adopted

Brown.

8-LS0404D.1 ✓
Lauterbach
5/6/94

AMENDMENT 2

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: HCS CSSB 70(STA)

Page 1, line 2, after "technology":

Insert "; and providing for an effective date"

Page 3, after line 20:

Insert a new bill section to read:

"* Sec. 4. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c)."



WALTER J. HICKEL/GOVERNOR
State of Alaska

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

P.O. Box 240249 • Anchorage, Alaska 99524-0249 • Phone: 907-563-5355 • Fax: 907-563-5357

March 15, 1994

Senator Rick Halford
Alaska State Senate
Capital Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801 - 1182
(Interdepartmental Mail Stop 3100)

Dear Senator Halford:

The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education supports Senate Bill 70 and we request the bill be calendared for a vote by the Senate. As Alaska's Developmental Disability Planning Council, we have studied the bill and worked with people with disabilities to see that their concerns have been addressed in the bill's present form.

It has been said that technology is the great liberator. People with disabilities require access to assistive devices to achieve employment and live with independence. The Council believes that SB 70 will go a long way in accommodating these needs.

The current version of the bill clarifies the administrative procedures that will be used to implement the program. The process to apply for a loan is based upon sound banking principles. Federal money will be used in a creative way to provide a sustainable program for future benefit of Alaskans with disabilities.

Please schedule the bill for Senate action. We would be glad to answer any questions that you may have about the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Maltman".

David Maltman
Executive Director



DENALI STATE BANK

119 N. Cushman Street • (907) 458-1400 • FAX (907) 458-2140 • P.O. Box 74568 • Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-4568

March 10, 1991

Senator Jim Duncan
c/o Alaskan Senate
Juneau, AK

RE: SB373

Dear Senator Duncan:

Thank you for introducing the above referenced bill. This letter is in support of your efforts to provide a loan guaranty and interest rate subsidy program for assistive technology. Passage of this legislation and funding of the program should allow many handicapped citizens of the State of Alaska to continue to be productive workers in our society. As we all know, a mentally or physically handicapped person can contribute much to a business or organization and enactment of this legislation continues to help to accomplish that purpose.

Denali State Bank stands ready cooperate in this program to provide loan funds. I have also discussed this matter with my Alaskan colleagues and find that they are in support of this issue.

May your efforts be rewarded with a swift passage of this bill. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Gary Roth
President and Chief Executive Officer

GR/bf

Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities
P.O. Box 107018
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-7018
(907)269-4877: Voice (907)269-4879: Text Telephone

March 19, 1993

Senator Jim Duncan
Capitol, Room 119
Juneau, Alaska 99811-1182

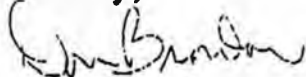
Dear Senator Duncan:

The members of the Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities would like to express their support of Senate Bill No. 70 and its companion House Bill No. 139. The Governor's Committee is interested in any legislation which may enable individuals with disabilities to gain, retain or advance in employment.

As you know, this legislation addresses a significant population of individuals in Alaska - the approximately 58% of individuals with disabilities who do not have access to the equipment which can help them live more sufficient lives. Not only will this assist individuals with disabilities, but also their families and businesses.

The Governor's Committee supports the intent of SB-70 and HB-139 and will be monitoring its progress as it makes its way through committee. If we can be of assistance in any way, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Don Brandon, Chair

Assistive Technology

Background

Technology such as computers and wheelchair ramps help people with disabilities to communicate more effectively, to work, and to gain access to independent lifestyles. Work place changes can pave the way to economic independence.

A 1991 study estimates that over 23,000 Alaskans could benefit from assistive technologies. However, everyone benefits when people who would otherwise depend on social welfare programs become financially self-sufficient through employment.

People with disabilities have a right to assistive technology under the federal laws Technology-Related Assistance For Individuals With Disabilities Act of 1988, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1990, and the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1992. Programs created by these laws are largely funded by the federal government with some state costs.

Until recently, several organizations offered "lending libraries" of assistive technology. None of these libraries was comprehensive. Small lending libraries have been pooled to create one comprehensive source to lend assistive technology to individuals with disabilities statewide.

The state Department of Education's Assistive Technologies of Alaska program has developed a computerized Cooperative Service Directory in cooperation with service agencies nationwide. Alaska is the first state to coordinate this directory among DOE divisions and the Department of Health and Social Services. This cooperative effort eliminates duplication, increases inter- and intra-agency coordination, meets several federal requirements at once, and is significantly less costly than developing multiple directories.

Problem

Nearly 8,000 Alaskans want and need but do not have access to assistive technologies.

Strategy

- A program of state guaranteed low-interest, long-term loans to individuals with disabilities for purchase of assistive devices would address the gap in statewide services.
- Continue coordinating efforts across Departments and divisions to assure that existing assistive technology resources are used effectively.

WALTER J. HICKEL
GOVERNOR



P. O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001
(907) 465-3500

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

March 11, 1994

The Honorable Rick Halford
President of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

357

Dear Mr. President:

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to certain study, publication, and reporting requirements by and to state agencies. The bill would eliminate certain reports and amend the frequency with which other reports are required to be made. The bill also relates to certain fees for reports by and to certain state agencies.

The bill would streamline the administration of state government by repealing the requirement for certain reports that study has revealed are unnecessary or duplicative. Additional efficiencies can be gained by changing the mandatory reporting period for certain other reports from annual to biennial in specified situations. All of these changes are primarily designed as cost-saving or efficiency measures. None of the changes would reduce the flow of information necessary to the effective execution of governmental responsibilities or the monitoring of executive branch activities by the legislature or the public.

Finally, some of the reports duplicate information already submitted as part of the state budget process. Savings will result through more efficient use of state personnel formerly assigned to the production of these reports.

This bill is good for efficient government, and I urge your consideration and support of it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Walter J. Hickel".

Walter J. Hickel
Governor

(7)

Date Referred: April 20, 1994

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT
FURTHER REFERRALS:

5/8/94
Finance

Date of Committee Action: 5-6-94

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered:

CSSB 70(L&C)

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 70(L&C)

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN GUARANTEES

"An Act establishing a loan guarantee and interest rate subsidy program for assistive technology."

RECOMMENDATIONS:

be replaced with

HCS CS613-70 (STA)

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 HSTA / DOE

fiscal note(s) _____

zero fiscal note _____

zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
<i>[Signature]</i> VEZEY	X	<i>[Signature]</i> Olberg		✓	
<i>[Signature]</i> Kott	X				
<i>[Signature]</i> G Davis	X				
<i>[Signature]</i> B Davis	X				
<i>[Signature]</i> Ulmer	X				
<i>[Signature]</i> Sanders	✓				
	(6)			(1)	

[Signature] VEZEY
CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

4/20/94

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(9)
Date Referred: March 21, 1994

FURTHER REFERRALS:

State Affairs
Finance

Date of Committee Action: 4/19/94

The HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered: CSSB 70(L&C)

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 70(L&C) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN GUARANTEES

"An Act establishing a loan guarantee and interest rate subsidy program for assistive technology."

- RECOMMENDATIONS: the same title
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 fiscal impact _____
 zero fiscal note _____

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date) _____
 fiscal note(s) Senate Education 2/23/94
 zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
<i>[Signature]</i> Kott	X	<i>[Signature]</i> Olberg			
<i>[Signature]</i> G. Davis	X				
<i>[Signature]</i> Toohy	✓				
<i>[Signature]</i> B. Davis	✓				
	(4)			(1)	

[Signature] Toohy
 CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE



SENATOR JIM DUNCAN
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Alaska State Senate

State Capitol • Room 119 • Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182 • (907) 465-4766 • Fax 465-4748

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 6, 1994

To: Representative Eileen MacLean, Co-Chair
Representative Ron Larsen, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee

From: Senator Jim Duncan

Subject: HCS SB 70 (STA), an act establishing a loan guarantee and interest rate subsidy program for assistive technology.

Thank you for scheduling Senate Bill 70 in the House Finance Committee. This bill establishes the Assistive Technology Loan Guarantee Program. The program will assist persons with disabilities to purchase durable equipment, adaptive aids, and assistive devices to obtain or maintain employment or to live more independently. SB 70 is substantially similar to a bill which was heard in the House HESS committee earlier this year, HB 139.

The program will allow the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to guarantee loans or reduce the interest rate on loans from private lending institutions to make the payments more manageable for consumers. Based on a study of comparable programs nationwide, the Senate Labor and Commerce amendments to SB 70 clarify the respective responsibilities of the lending institutions and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Application for a loan will be made directly to a lending institution which will evaluate the credit-worthiness of the individual. If the institution determines the individual with a disability can repay the loan requested, but only with a lower interest rate or a loan guarantee, the bank will refer the borrower to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for assistance from the Assistive Technology Loan Program.

The Department of Education supports this bill. Under SB 70 the funding for the loan program is primarily from federal grants which are anticipated to continue into the foreseeable future. Under SB 70 the Assistive Technology Loan Program would sunset if federal funds were no longer available. SB 70 also allows the contribution of private funds, and already two Anchorage area banks have indicated interest in contributing funds prompted by the federal Community Reinvestment initiative.

I respectfully urge your prompt and favorable action on SB 70.

Attachments