

SB

2550

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 1/14/94

FURTHER: STATE AFFAIRS
FINANCE

Date of 5-Day Notice: 1/27/94
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED
INTO OFFICE: 2/16/94

HES Committee considered SB 250

Older Alaskans Commission and staff of the commission; changing the name of the Older Alaskans Commission to the Alaska Commission on Aging and extending the termination date; relating to the Alaska Pioneers' Homes Advisory Board; relating to services/programs for older Alaskans; efd. and recommends:

- replace with _____ CS _____ ()
- or adopt previous _____ CS _____ ()
- attaches amendment(s)

- same title
- new title
- technical title change (HB only)

adopts _____ Letter of Intent

further referral to the _____

- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations

NEW FISCAL NOTES

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal
<i>previous Administration</i>	<i>1/14/94</i>	<i>✓</i>	

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTES

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal

Appropriation No Fiscal Note

DO PASS:

Gov's Bill

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Mike Miller No Rec

Judy Sals No Rec

Bob Murphy No Rec

Steve Rieger Do Pass
Chair: Signature and Recommendation

FISCAL NOTE

No. 1

STATE OF ALASKA
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version: SB250

(S) Publish Date: 1-14-94

Revision Date: _____ Dept. Affected: Administration
 Title: Relating to OAC, Alaska BRU: Commission on Aging
Pioneer Home Advisory Brd and services for Component: Commission on Aging
 Sponsor: Governor older Alaskans
 Requestor: _____ COMPONENT SERIAL NO. _____

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
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 EXPENDITURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
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CHANC. REVENUES ()	0	0	0	0	0	0
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FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0	0	0	0	0	0
1003 GF Match	0	0	0	0	0	0
1004 GF	0	0	0	0	0	0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0	0	0	0	0	0
1006 GF/MHTIA	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

Prepared by: Roberley Waldron
 Division: Commissioner's Office
 Approved by Commissioner: Nancy Bear Uska
 Agency: Administration

Phone 258-6117
 Date: _____
 Date: 11/12/93

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WALTER J. HICKEL
GOVERNOR



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STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

January 14, 1994

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

Dear Mr. President:

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to the Older Alaskans Commission, the Alaska Pioneers' Homes Advisory Board, and certain programs and services for older Alaskans.

The bill changes the name of the Older Alaskans Commission to the Alaska Commission on Aging, decreases the number of required yearly commission meetings, and extends the termination date of the commission. The bill also makes changes in the allocation of functions of the commission, the commission's executive director, and the commissioner of administration. For example, the commission, with the approval of the commissioner of administration, will set policy for the administration of federal programs under the federal Older Americans Act. The executive director, with the commissioner of administration's approval, will administer those programs. The executive director for the commission also will be responsible for the formulation and presentation to the commission of the comprehensive statewide plan that identifies the concerns and needs of older Alaskans. The commission will be responsible for approving a final plan.

The bill also makes certain changes in the composition and duties of the Alaska Pioneers' Homes Advisory Board. The board will be increased from seven to eight members; the new member will be the chairperson of the Alaska Commission on Aging. (Under existing law, the chair of the Alaska Pioneers' Homes Advisory Board is a member of the Older Alaskans Commission.) The bill also decreases the number of board meetings that must be held during a year.

Additionally, the Department of Administration plans to administratively establish a division of senior services to better coordinate services to older Alaskans. The Alaska Commission on Aging and the Alaska Pioneers' Homes Advisory Board would be located administratively in that new division. The new division would replace the

*The Honorable Rick Halford
January 14, 1994
Page 2*

existing division of pioneers' benefits and would assume responsibility for activities currently assigned to that division, which include administration of the pioneers' homes and the longevity bonus program.

The enactment of this bill into law, along with the administrative creation of the new division, will assure improved, coordinated efforts to address the varied problems confronting older Alaskans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Walter J. Hickel". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

*Walter J. Hickel
Governor*

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Older Alaskans Commission

October 7, 1993

The Honorable Nancy Bear Usera
Commissioner
Department of Administration
P.O. Box 110200
Juneau, AK 99811-0200

Re: Governor's Proposal
for Senior Reorganization

Dear Commissioner Usera:

On behalf of the Commission, I want to express our appreciation of the opportunity to review, with Deputy Commissioner Waldron, Governor Hickel's proposal to reorganize senior services in state government, including the summaries of the three proposed bills.

The commission fully endorses the concepts behind the three bills, and the plan to create a new division of senior services by administrative order. We appreciate your leadership in initiating the Task Force last year, and believe that your choice and direction of Task Force members led directly to this excellent proposal for a new approach to senior services.

The commission plans to work, both as a group and individually, to understand the bills in both concept and detail, and will advocate for their support among the seniors in our local and regional areas. We would like to receive a copy of the actual bills' language as soon as they are public.

The commission has three comments or suggestions for the bill regarding the Commission and the Pioneers' Homes Advisory Board:

1. We think the increased linkage of the two boards, by the designation of a voting seat on each board for the chairman of the other board, is an excellent improvement.
2. While we support the new voting power given to the three departmental commission members from the administration, we would urge addition of language that the chairman of the Alaska Commission on Aging must be selected from among the seven layperson members appointed by the Governor.

Commissioner Nancy Bear Usera

Page 2

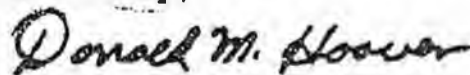
October 7, 1993

3. We strongly feel that because commissioners are either selected by or retained at the pleasure of the current governor, the members of the commission should choose their own chairman. The citizen-led impetus to create a commission in 1980 appears to still reflect the general senior sentiment in our state that the wisdom and experience of seniors should be recognized by allowing them a strong role in managing senior affairs in our state government.

Finally, we wish to note our concern that there be adequate fiscal and personnel resources to successfully carry out the two important new functions of the new Division of Senior Services, namely, the licensing of Assisted Living homes and Adult Protective Services.

Again, thank you for the chance to comment upon this proposal. Please convey to Governor Hickel our strong support of his plan.

Sincerely,



Donald M. Hoover, Chairman
Older Alaskans Commission



Bringing lifetimes of experience and leadership to serve all generations.

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Mary Lou Meiners
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December 15, 1992

Connie J. Lipe
Executive Director
Older Alaskans Commission
P.O. Box 110209
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Connie,

During the December meeting of the State Legislative Committee of A.A.R.P., the proposed consolidation of Senior Services was discussed.

If and when such a centralization should become a reality, the members of the Alaska State Legislative Committee go on record favoring the establishment of a Division of Senior Services within the Department of Community and Regional Affairs.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our opinion on this matter.

Sincerely,
Mary Lou Meiners, Chair
Alaska State Legislative Committee

AGENET

Alaska
Geriatric
Exchange
NETwork

January 27, 1993

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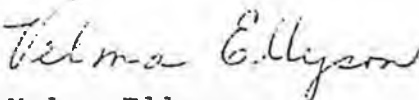
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283-4156
Fax 283-5856
Area: South Central

Interagency Task Force
c/o Older Alaskans Commission
3602 C Street Suite 260
Anchorage, Ak 99503

Dear Interagency Task Force,

We, the association of programs providing senior services through Older Alaska Commission grants, are in favor of a Division of Senior Services. This reorganization of programs that serve Older Alaskans into a combined Division of Senior Services will greatly assist us in being about to provide efficient, cost effective services to Alaskan seniors.

Sincerely,



Velma Ellyson
President



PIONEERS' HOMES ADVISORY BOARD

Amos "Joe" Alter, Chairman

October 15, 1993

P.O. Box 110211

Juneau, AK 99811-0211



Nancy Bear Usera, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Administration
P O Box 110200
Juneau, AK 99811-00200

Dear Nancy:

You and your hospitality are great and I am sure I speak for each and all of our Board Members as I thank you.

The opportunity to meet with you and discuss Administration priorities and concern was an excellent way for us to start our home visits. In the Board role of communicating your concerns to Pioneers' Homes residents and the public and visa versa we have the following findings to report to you:

1. The Board, residents, and the public are generally supportive of Administration proposals for reorganization of senior programs within a new division of aging with one exception. Predominate opinion prefers Board selection of its own chairman.
2. The proposed rate increases are generally acceptable.
3. More Mental Health Trust funds should be provided to complement current appropriations for Pioneers' Homes. Current efforts to serve the special needs of Alzheimer and related dementia needs of residents is commendable but inadequate. Planned staff training designed to enhance service to these special residents is essential and appreciated. A closer working relationship between this Board and the Mental Health Board is recommended.
4. Appropriate revisions should be made in current conditions governing employment of qualified part time staff to enhance availability of such staff.
5. There is general opposition to privatization of the homes.

Robert Gore, Board Member
John Dapceovich, Board Member

Vallie Byrdsong, Board Member
Stella Odsather, Board Member

Robert Kallenburg, Board Member
Peggy Arness, Board Member

6. Great appreciation and a minimum of dissatisfaction with the system was obvious. We urge continuing restructuring of the service model to address those future needs not met otherwise.

We thank you again for the opportunity to work with you and your dedicated Pioneers' Home staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe".

Amos J. Alter

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

SENATE BILL 250 RELATING TO THE OLDER ALASKANS COMMISSION AND THE PIONEERS' HOMES ADVISORY BOARD

This bill is one of three introduced by Governor Hickel as part of his plan to improve and reorganize state services to Alaska's seniors. A detailed analysis of the bill follows this page. First, let us highlight the improvements which would be effected by Senate Bill 250. When enacted, Senate Bill will:

- Re-name the Older Alaskans Commission as the Alaska Commission on Aging
- Reduce the number of mandatory annual meetings for both the Commission and the Board to reflect current practice and fiscal resources
- Add the chairperson of the Commission on Aging to the Pioneers' Homes Board
- Establish 8 year maximum terms for Pioneers' Homes Board members, allow current members to serve up to 8 more years, and transition the board to staggered terms
- Add the chairperson of the Pioneers' Homes Boards and the Commissioners of Health & Social Services, Community & Regional Affairs, and Administration to the list of voting members on the Commission on Aging (now non-voting members)
- Empower the Governor to choose the chairpersons of the Commission and the Board
- Clarify that the Commission on Aging administers programs through its executive director
- Clarify that the Commission sets policy for administration of its programs and selects recipients of grant awards
- Allow the Commission flexibility to reduce or waive local "match" requirements for grantees when waiver is in public interest

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF SENATE BILL 250

Section 1, AS 18.56.700(b), changes the name of the commission in the Alaska Housing Finance statutes relating to coordination of senior housing efforts.

Section 2 amends AS 44.21.110 to reduce the mandated number of meetings for the Pioneers' Homes Advisory Board from twice to once a year.

Section 3 rewrites AS 44.21.120 to add the chairperson of the Commission on Aging to the Pioneers' Homes Advisory Board; to set the Board members' terms at a maximum of eight consecutive years; and to clarify that the governor designates the chairperson of the Board.

Section 4 amends AS 44.21.200(a) to re-name the Older Alaskans Commission as the Alaska Commission on Aging, and to add to the seven laypersons who currently serve as voting members another four voting members: the citizen Chairperson of the Pioneers' Homes Board and the Commissioners of the Departments of Administration, Community and Regional Affairs, and Health and Social Services; bringing the total of voting members on the commission to eleven.

Section 5 amends AS 44.21.210(a) to reduce the mandatory annual number of meetings of the commission from six to four.

Section 6 amends the quorum for voting by the commission and deletes references to non-voting members.

Section 7 rewrites AS 44.21.210(c) to state that the governor shall designate the chairperson of the commission from among the seven citizen members selected under AS 44.21.20(a)(5).

Section 8 adds a new section on the duties of the Executive Director of the Commission: to formulate the state plan for older Alaskans for the commission and to administer federal and state grants for senior services.

Section 9 amends AS 44.21.230(a) to clarify that the Commission approves the state plan formulated by its staff; makes recommendations directly to both the governor and the legislature; sets policy for the administration of federal and state grants for senior services; and evaluates and awards the grants.

Sections 10 and 11 merely amend the Commission's name in other references in existing laws.

Sections 12 through 14 amend the existing elder abuse reporting law to use the new name for the Commission.

Section 15 amends the Mental Health Trust Lands Settlement Act to use the new name for the Commission.

Sections 16 through 18 amend the existing law authorizing state-funded service grants by the Commission, to amend the Commission's name, and, in sec. 18, to allow the Commission to establish by regulations standards for granting waivers of the required sponsor contribution ("match") when such a waiver is in the public interest.

Section 19 amends the name of the Commission in another citation in existing law.

Section 20 provides for a transition period for members of the Pioneers' Homes Advisory Board, so that current members may be reappointed after July 1, 1994 to serve up to eight consecutive years, but also specifying that any other persons appointed after that date will have their terms of office set so as to establish the staggering of terms of members.

Section 21 states that the changes in the Mental Health Settlement Act relative to the Commission will occur only when and if both this bill and chapter 66, SLA 1991 are effective.

Section 22 provides for an effective date of July 1, 1994 for the bill.