

SJR

48



SENATOR LOREN LEMAN

Northwest Anchorage

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Session: State Capitol, Juneau AK 99801 465-2095

SPONSOR STATEMENT

SJR 48: A Resolution relating to welfare reform.

SJR 48 asks the federal government to address the continuing problems that plague the current welfare system. The growing number of people dependent on welfare and the costs associated with these increases have been a strain on the economic health of Alaska. In a country as rich as ours, we are allowing too many low income Americans to become trapped by the bondage of welfare.

Welfare programs such as Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Food Stamps, and Medicaid have failed in their intent to provide the means for recipients to become self-supporting, strengthen family life, and strive for personal independence.

State sponsored welfare is a noble humanitarian effort. Yet in its present form, the administered cures are destroying the social morals of our country. Families are torn apart, children are denied a loving home, and dependency on a government check is substituted for a hard days work.

The federal government unnecessarily inhibits the progress of state welfare reform programs with a time consuming and expensive waiver process. This resolution asks the Secretary of Health and Human Services to allow Alaska and other states to experiment with reforms which are more effective than federally mandated changes. A new approach must be taken at the state level to correct current deficiencies. Alaska should be allowed to make necessary changes to welfare without waiting for permission from the federal government.

These proposed reform programs have succeeded in other states, and are designed to promote personal independence without the need for further welfare assistance. Alaska needs freedom to create an assistance program that will encourage employment. Employment and self-sufficiency are the keys to solving our welfare problems. Each individual should ultimately be responsible for their own well-being. The government has a duty to promote independence, not dependence.

Private foundations and organizations are more efficient and compassionate in dealing with many of societies problems, welfare is one of them. Government should not be in the welfare business--people should. It is time we moved toward this goal.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SJR 48

Revision Date: _____ Dept. Affected: Health and Social Services
 Title: A Resolution relating to welfare reform BRU: Assistance Payments
 Component: AFDC
 Sponsor: Leman
 Requestor: _____ COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 0220

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00
PERSONAL SERVICES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TRAVEL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CONTRACTUAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SUPPLIES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EQUIPMENT	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MISCELLANEOUS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CHANGES IN REVENUES	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

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

Estimate of current year (FY94) impact: NONE

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The bill would have no immediate impact on Alaska's AFDC program. The resolution supports the ideas advanced by the Governor in his March 1993 position paper calling for federal support of the states' welfare reform efforts. If the federal government acts to expand state flexibility in the operation of AFDC programs, Alaska will be better situated to achieve long-term reductions in welfare dependency and AFDC program costs.

Prepared by: Jan L. Hansen, Director
 Division: Division of Public Assistance
 Approved by Commissioner: Margaret R. Lowe
 Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

Phone: 465-2680
 Date: 3/10/94
 Date: 3-21-94

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SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT
FIRST COMMITTEE OF REFERRAL

DATE: 2/14/94

FURTHER:

Date of 5-Day Notice: 4/7/94
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: 4/19/94

HESS Committee considered SJR 48

Relating to welfare reform.

and recommends:

replace with _____ CS _____ ()

attaches amendment(s)

adopts _____ Letter of Intent

further referral to the _____

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

same title
 new title
 technical title change
(HB only)

FISCAL NOTE INFORMATION

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal
Health & Social Services	3/21/94	✓	

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal

Appropriation No Fiscal Note

Governor's Bill with Previous Fiscal Notes (enter information above)

DO PASS:

Mike Miller

Drew D. Lemaw

Best Group

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

J. A. Duncan - No Rec

D. J. Ellis No Rec

Judith E. Salo (No Rec)

Chair: Signature and Recommendation