

SB

278

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

First Committee of Referral

DATE: 2/9/96

FURTHER: Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: 2-15-96
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: 2-19-96

The Resources Committee considered SB 278

Relating to the authority of the Department of Natural Resources to allow credits against fees at state historical parks.

and recommends:

- be replaced with _____ CS _____
- adopt previous _____ CS _____
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by _____ Committee
- further referral to the _____ Committee

Senate Bill:

- same title
- new title

House Bill:

- same title
- technical title
- new: SCR# _____

SIGNING DO PAS9	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	NR	DNP	AM
<i>[Signature]</i>					
<i>[Signature]</i>					
<i>[Signature]</i>					
<i>[Signature]</i>					
<i>[Signature]</i>					
CHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>		CHAIR:			

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal
<i>TRC/PAS</i>	<i>2/10/96</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):*

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal

APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

*Include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill

Alaska State Legislature

Chairman,
Judiciary Committee

Vice Chairman,
Transportation Committee

Member,
Resources Committee
Western Legislative Forestry Task Force



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Senator Robin L. Taylor

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 278

Senate Bill 278 was introduced to address concerns raised by the Ketchikan Area State Parks Advisory Board and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly.

SB 278 would provide a mechanism by which the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation could acquire two small parcels of land adjacent to Totem Bight State Historical Park.

The parcels are currently held by Ketchikan Public Utilities as the site of a diesel generation plant. KPU plans to vacate the property, which would then revert to the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.

SB 278 would allow DNR to offer credits against fees paid by commercial tour operators for payments made to a municipality for projects that will mitigate or alleviate access, congestion and parking problems at historical parks. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation has indicated that use of this provision at any state historical park other than Totem Bight is unlikely. In any event, the authority would sunset on December 31, 2000. The three year window is needed to avoid drawing too quickly against the fees.

District A

Hyder • Ketchikan • Kupreanof • Niyem Chuck • Petersburg • Salamat • Sitka • Wrangell

Sponsor Statement - SB 278

Page Two

Totem Bight, a 12.5 acre state park located north of the City of Ketchikan, had an estimated 160,000 visitors in 1995, about half of them arriving on commercial tours. In 1977 it was estimated that the park could handle between 636 and 744 people at one time. Actual use now exceeds 925 people in the park at once.

The park only has seven parking spaces for busses and often there are up to 21 busses parked in the lot, on road shoulders and at a nearby gift shop. Park staff is now advising independent travelers and local park users to pay attention to the cruise ship schedule and avoid the park when the ships are in town.

To mitigate this overcrowding and congestion, DNR is proposing that the tour operators pay for acquisition of the borough-owned parcels to provide additional parking space and additional attractions such as trails and a carving demonstration area.

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has indicated an interest in developing a transportation enhancement project along the road at Totem Bight if the land becomes available.

Totem Bight is a valuable asset. The state has invested more than a million dollars in capital improvements to the facility over the past ten years. By acquiring these two parcels we can spread out the use area, enhance the park and mitigate the problems.

Craig Moore, 2118 Second Avenue, said he is the chair of the Ketchikan Area State Parks Advisory Board. The board was pleased to see their request on the agenda for the Borough to endorse and support the addition of lands to the Totem Bight State Parks. He hopes the Borough will agree this is the best use for this property. They want the request on this year's legislative priority list. They hope it is not too late to do that. This would aid the Division of Parks in obtaining funds to purchase the two tracts of land. He understands KPU will be vacating one of the parcels. They feel this tract will be especially beneficial to the park. This would be a very good use of the land. The plan is to use it for parking and for a totem carving project. It is a good area for viewing the park. The Board urges the Assembly to look favorably on their request and hopefully the Ketchikan Area State Parks Advisory Board can get this on their legislative priority list.

In response to Assemblymember Elkins, Mr. Moore said the Ketchikan Area State Parks Advisory Board looked at the fee structure for the park several years ago. They researched it thoroughly. The fee was raised. He is not sure if the fee will be raised again. Totem Bight raises quite a bit of money for the Division of Parks. It is definitely profitable. He doesn't know what Saxman charges for their tours. The local legislators were involved when the fee was raised. The park is a very popular attraction, not only to the local residents, but the visiting tourists. He just returned from Mexico where he learned that anything with history, archeology, and anthropology is a very important attraction. People all over the world are interested in it. Our native culture is very popular. The park is undergoing a management plan through the Division of parks. That is why they would like to add these parcels to the park. It would make it easier for tourists that want to view that area.

In response to Assemblymember Mitchell, Mr. Moore said they would certainly like to have both Tract M and L. If the Borough decides not to release both parcels, perhaps it would be reconsidered in the future. It is adjacent to the tidelands and has some trail potential.

Assemblymember Yetka said the agenda statement given to the Assembly states the Borough may have a need for Tract L for a location to place waste or recycling containers. She asked Mr. Moore if this was just going to be used for viewing and to protect the tidelands.

Mr. Moore said yes. Those were some of the ideas the advisory board had for that tract. He is not sure what the Management of the Division of Parks has in mind. They do listen to the local Advisory board. The Board wants to keep the view shed along that area. Tract L is steep and narrow.

Mayor Carlton said the community priority list is finished for this year. If the Assembly approves this request, the Assembly could send a letter of support.

~~Ray Sallee, 4507 North Tongue, said he is against mandated garbage pickup. He understands it has already passed. He spoke to a lot of people who are not in favor of it. He feels he got bypassed during the process. He did not see a referendum on the ballot or anything. He is just about to the point of circulating petitions to see if he can get this overturned. He is one of the good guys who takes care of his garbage.~~

~~Manager Rody explained how the exemption works and who can be exempted. Reasons for receiving an exemption are (1) if you can't be served, (2) if you are part of an area that gets pickup already like a mobile home court, and (3) if the person does several recycling things such as composting and burning.~~

~~Mr. Sallee said he feels like he was bypassed and did not get a chance to let the Assembly know how he felt about the passage of the new regulations. He doesn't feel this will help with the dumping. He thinks people will probably dump even more in those places, because they will be irate. He feels this should have been voted on by the people.~~

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To: JOE ANBROSE	From: Borough
Ca: CLERK	Ca: CLERK
Dept:	Phone:
Fax: 465-3922	Fax:

Consideration of a request from the Ketchikan Area State Parks Advisory Board to support their request to acquire the small borough-owned tract of land adjacent to Totem Blight State Historic Park

M/S Tipton/Yetka to place the acquisition and/or land swap of Tracts L & M (ASLS 81-39; 0.575 acres), be placed on the Legislative Priority list by means of a letter to the State.

Assemblymember Yetka said Mr. Moore said with the Borough's support by adding Tract L, the State Parks would favor a stipulation for locating recycling bins on that property. The transfer could be contingent upon reaching an agreement for recycling bins on that property. This would give them use of the adjacent land.

Assemblymember Coyne said this would all come up with the purchase. The stipulations would be addressed then.

Assemblymember Mitchel said he is not sure the two concepts are compatible. There would be the state park that is for tourists along side a recycling place.

Assemblymember Yetka said it was just for the bins.

Assemblymember Mitchel said at first he was in favor of the idea. He wondered if there wasn't an area closer to town.

Assemblymember Yetka said a fence could be constructed.

Manager Rody said he wanted to bring this up because it is the only parcel in that area that could be used for that purpose. If you have been out there it is a long ways away. It may be the Assembly may decide later not to use this property for a recycling bin.

Assemblymember Chenhall said we have to remember that Tract M is still being used by KPU and will not be available until the generator is moved.

M/S Mitchel/Chenhall to vote on the tracts separately.

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE WITH ONE "NO" VOTE.

Mayor Carlton asked for a roll call vote on Tract M.

Upon roll call, the vote on the motion was:

YES: COYNE, ELKINS, YETKA, CHENHALL, MITCHEL, TIPTON

NO: NONE

ABSENT: CONLEY

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

Assemblymember Mitchel said Tract L can be decided later. The Assembly is in the middle of the whole solid waste thing. After determining where we are with that and deciding if we need the land or not, we can make the swap later. He feels the core property is Tract M. Tract L may have utility for the Borough.

Mayor Carlton asked for a roll call vote on Tract L.

Upon roll call, the vote on the motion was:

YES: COYNE, ELKINS, YETKA, TIPTON

NO: MITCHEL, CHENHALL

ABSENT: CONLEY

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED.

~~Consideration of an agreement with Tongass Sanitation, Inc. for solid waste collection and disposal (as provided by Ordinance No. 983 adopted 12/4/95)~~

~~This was considered earlier in the meeting.~~

~~Consideration of Resolution No. 1258 establishing the amount of the non-areawide disposal fee and authorizing the mandatory non-areawide monthly residential solid waste collection fees~~

~~There was no action taken.~~

~~Introduction of Ordinance No. 985 providing for alternatives to prepayment of property taxes upon replat~~

~~This was considered earlier in the meeting.~~

~~Consideration of bid award for dry dock inspection and repairs to the M/V Bob Ellis to Alaska Ship and Dry Dock for \$250,425~~

~~This was considered earlier in the meeting.~~

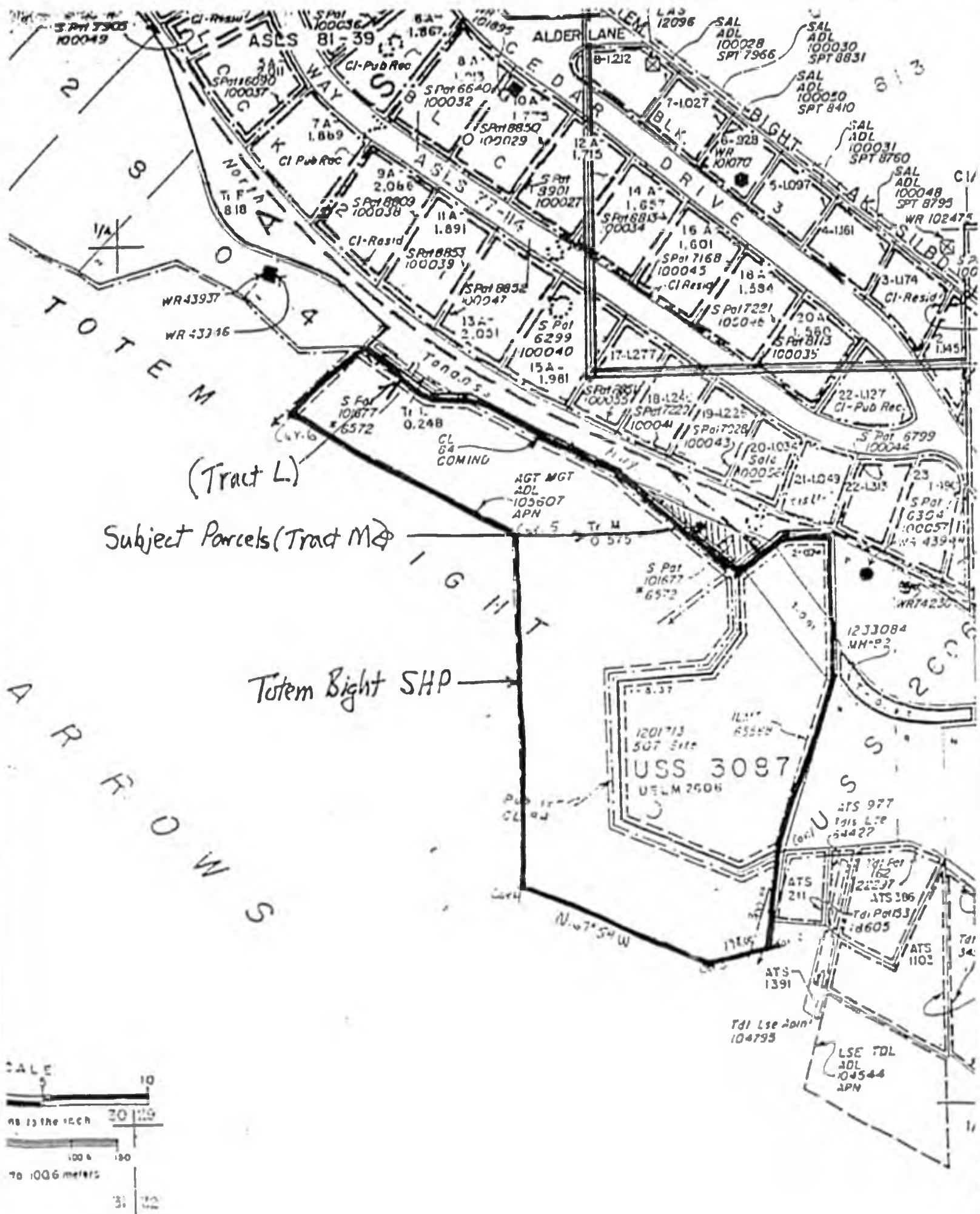
REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, EXECUTIVE, ADMINISTRATORS

Manager's Report

Manager Rody said he wanted to give Assemblymember Coyne an answer for his question on why it takes 30 days to get an answer from the Planning Department. The person understood he was asking about the Carlisle conditional use permit. It would be thirty days before the Planning Commission will meet and then they will be able to give you your answer. The other question was how many day care centers have conditional use permits. Right now they know of none. What the Borough has done, is sent out letters letting the day care providers know they must get conditional use permits.

Manager Rody said he would like to thank Chief John Voln and Chief Ken Holmes and their staffs for continuing efforts to get water down to the Mountain Point Service Area. They worked hard getting the Mountain Point Service Area water during the cold spell.

Manager Rody said Craig Moore spoke earlier. He is negotiating with him to be the inspector for the Indoor Recreation Center. Because the amount of money is beyond his contracting authority, he will be bringing a contract back to the Assembly for approval at the next meeting. He is going to offer \$45,000 for a year's worth of work and out-of-pocket expenses. The Borough will request he have a bond. He feels Mr. Moore is competent and capable and he looks forward to having him on board. Mr. Rody said he had two people apply for the position.



(Tract L)
 Subject Parcels (Tract M)

Totem Bight SHP →

