

SB

261

CO-SPONSOR

Alaska State Legislature

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JAN 22 RECD

MIKE MILLER
President of the Senate

Senate District Q

TO: All Senators
FROM: Senator Mike Miller
RE: Special Olympics Legislation
Co-Sponsor Opportunity
DATE: January 22, 1998

As you know, Anchorage was awarded the bid to host the World Special Olympics Winter games in 2001. The bid award was contingent on the State agreeing to be the financial guarantor of the Games.

Working in conjunction with Senator Stevens, the Governor and private industry, Speaker Phillips and I agreed to jointly introduce legislation that would "morally obligate" the State to pay any residual costs of the Games if private industry does not raise the money.

The total budget for the games is four million dollars. To date, the organizing committee has raised over one million. With three years left to raise the funds, I am quite confident that the legislature will not be required to appropriate funds to cover costs.

The attached legislation establishes AIDEA as the controlling agency to oversee the organizing committees fundraising activities and to report to the legislature on January 2 of each year the total funds raised to date. In the event that the money is not raised, the legislature would be 'morally obligated' to cover any costs, up to four million dollars.

Alaska is fortunate to have been awarded the bid. Special Olympics is a unique organization that benefits athletes in all areas of our State. The opportunity for them to participate in a worldwide competition with people of their same abilities is a once in a lifetime experience.

If you are interested in cosponsoring this legislation, please let Mary Gore in my office know by Friday afternoon, January 23. A press conference will be held on Monday, January 26, here in Juneau, Governors conference room at 10:30 with members of the organizing committee who will be here from Anchorage.

Sectional Analysis of Special Olympics Legislation

Section 1

Expresses the findings for the temporary law that holding the games in Anchorage will benefit the state in many ways: There will be national recognition of Alaska as a location for large-scale sporting events; the state will receive economic benefits from the athletes, coaches, and spectators who attend the games; the state will showcase its world-class competition venues to a global television audience; and the state will be enriched through welcoming athletes experiencing certain developmental disabilities from around the world who will demonstrate their skills, courage and joy during the games.

Section 2

Creates the 2001 Special Olympics World Winter Games reserve fund to be administered by the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA).

Section 3

Authorize AIDEA to accept gifts, grants, trusts, bequests and donations for the games and to use the reserve fund as necessary to facilitate the games. Requires AIDEA to review the local sponsor organization's finance plan for the games and to determine whether there is sufficient money from sources other than state appropriations to cover the valid obligations of the local sponsor organization for those games.

Section 4

Requires that, if the local sponsor organization desires state financial assistance, it must prepare a finance plan for the games and submit the plan to AIDEA for approval. This section also requires in addition to containing information regarding costs and sources of money, the finance plan must contain a method of financing the games that minimizes the cost to the state.

Section 4 (e) also requires the chair person of AIDEA to provide annually to the Governor and the legislature a report stating whether the local sponsor organization has met its requirements regarding the finance plan and stating the sum, if any required, to cover the valid obligations of the local sponsor organization as determined under Section 3 of the bill. The legislature may appropriate a sum of up to a cumulative total of \$4,000,000 for deposit into the reserve fund. This subsection would not create a debt or liability of the state but instead is in the nature of a moral obligation to capitalize the reserve fund.

Section 5

Definition of terms in the bill.

Section 6

Effective date.

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MIKE MILLER
President of the Senate

Senate District Q

SB 261 Sponsor Statement

In the fall of 1997, Anchorage was awarded the bid to host the World Special Olympics Winter games in 2001. The bid award was contingent on the State agreeing to be the financial guarantor of the Games.

Working in conjunction with Senator Stevens, the Governor and private industry, Speaker Phillips and I agreed to jointly introduce legislation (HB357) that would "morally obligate" the State to pay any residual costs of the Games if private industry does not raise the money.

The total budget for the games is eight million dollars, four million dollars cash and four million dollars in-kind. In seven months, the organizing committee has raised over one million cash and two million in-kind. With three years left to generate funds, the organizing committee is committed to raising more than what is required host the Games and the legislature will not be required to appropriate funds to cover costs.

The legislation establishes AIDEA as the controlling agency to oversee the organizing committees fundraising activities and to report to the legislature on January 2 of each year the total funds raised to date. In the event that the money is not raised, the legislature would be 'morally obligated' to cover any costs, up to four million dollars.

Alaska is fortunate to have been awarded the bid. Special Olympics is a unique organization that benefits athletes in all areas of our State. The opportunity for them to participate in a worldwide competition with people of their same abilities is a once in a lifetime experience.



Special Olympics World Winter Games Alaska 2001, Inc.

"Enlightening the World with the Spirit of Brave Hearts"

TO: Senator Lyda Green

FROM: J.A. Palmer
Legislative Chair
2001 Special Olympics World Winter Games

DATE: April 20, 1998

SUBJECT: **SB 261 - Special Olympics 2001**

As Chair of the Legislative Committee of Special Olympics World Winter Games and on behalf of the entire board of directors, I would like to thank you for your vote of support for SB 261.

These winter games will be the largest event ever held in our great state. Along with the great economic impact the games will have on Alaska, most importantly, the emotional impact will be beyond measure.

We all truly appreciate your vote of confidence by securing this letter of guarantee necessary to officially be awarded the Games. Games of this magnitude cannot be done without the support and dedication you have shown. We look forward to working with you over the next several years.

Thank you again.