

SB

8



SENATOR DAVE DONLEY
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Jerry Ward
Chair, Senate State Affairs Committee

FROM: Senator Dave Donley *DD*

DATE: February 10, 1999

RE: Hearing request for SB 8

I request that you schedule Senate Bill 8 "An Act relating to the minimum plumbing fixtures required for females in the state plumbing code." I do have a sponsor substitute I will be submitting for adoption when SB8 is scheduled to be heard.

Senate Bill 8 will modify existing plumbing code statutes to more closely reflect the most current version of the national uniform plumbing code and increase the number of facilities provided for women in buildings that qualify as "assembly places", such as auditoriums, convention halls, stadiums, etc....

Current Alaska State Statute adopts the 1997 edition of the Uniform Plumbing Code, excluding table 4.1, "Minimum Plumbing Fixtures." Table 4.1, which is the only page of the 1997 code that was not adopted, contains higher requirements for women's facilities than the version that was adopted. Instead, table A29A from chapter 29 of the Uniform Building Code was adopted to serve as the guide for minimum plumbing fixtures within the state. It is this table that Senate Bill 8 will amend to increase the number of facilities for women.

Senate Bill 8 will allow women to attend large public events without enduring the line they will inevitably have to face, thus unfairly impacting the enjoyment of the event they are attending. With this bill, the ratio of women's to men's facilities will be increased to a 3:1 ratio and will attempt to add parity to the situation.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. If you or your staff should have any questions, please contact myself or Simone Sanders of my staff at 465-3892.

DD/srs January-May: STATE CAPITOL • JUNEAU, AK • 99801-1182 • (907) 465-3892 • FAX: (907) 465-6595
June-December: 716 W. 4TH AVE. • STE. 430 • ANCHORAGE, AK • 99501 • (907) 269-0234 • FAX: (907) 269-0238

Vice-Chair, Senate Finance Committee • Chairman, Capitol Budget Subcommittee •
MEMBER: Senate Judiciary Committee • Senate Labor & Commerce Committee • Legislative Council



SENATOR DAVE DONLEY
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

**SPONSOR STATEMENT
FOR SENATE BILL 8
"AN ACT RELATING TO THE MINIMUM REQUIRED PLUMBING
FACILITIES AND FIXTURES IN THE STATE PLUMBING CODE"**

Senate Bill 8 will amend the existing plumbing code in AS 18.60.705 to increase the minimum number of women's facilities in assembly places.

Senate Bill 8 will allow women to attend large public events in buildings constructed after January 1, 2000 without enduring the line they have inevitably had to face, thus unfairly impacting their enjoyment of the event they are attending. With this bill, the ratio of women's to men's facilities will be increased to a 3:1 ratio and bring fairness to the situation.

The current statute adopts the entire most recent Uniform Building Code except table A-29-A which is an older version of the code that provides fewer plumbing facilities for women. Senate Bill 8 will correct this oversight.

Senate Bill 8 amends current statute and specifically addresses the number of facilities provided for women in "assembly places." The current table in statute does provide a slightly elevated number of facilities for women in comparison to those provided for men, but the ratio does not meet the demand. SB 8 will amend table A-29-A currently in statute and mandate a 3:1 ratio for women's to men's facilities.

Senate Bill 8 will improve an unfortunate situation women face at every large event they attend. The lines for the bathroom are a reality for every woman who attends functions in "assembly" places such as auditoriums, convention halls, stadiums, etc.... Senate Bill 8 will increase the ratio and afford women the same benefits offered to men at these large events.

Senate Bill 8 will correct a situation that has plagued women since indoor events have been held in the State of Alaska. It is a step in the right direction and will give women the opportunity to enjoy the event they are attending rather than spending the majority of their time in line for the bathroom.

DD/srs

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**SENATE BILL 8 COMPARISON
CURRENT TABLE in AS 18.60.705 vs. UBC TABLE vs. PROPOSED TABLE
ASSEMBLY PLACES**

Table A-29-A (currently in AS 18.60.705)

<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>
1 - 50 men = 1 toilet	1 - 50 women = 3 toilets
51 - 100 men = 1 toilet/1 urinal	51 - 100 women = 4 toilets
101 - 150 men = 2 toilets/1 urinal	101 - 200 women = 6 toilets
151 - 300 men = 2 toilets/2 urinals	201 - 400 women = 8 toilets
301 - 500 men = 3 toilets/2 urinals	401 - 525 women = 9 toilets
501 - 700 men = 3 toilets/3 urinals	526 - 650 women = 10 toilets
701 - 900 men = 4 toilets/3 urinals	651 - 775 women = 11 toilets
**After 400 men, each additional 200 men adds one toilet/urinal to the equation	776 - 900 women = 12 toilets
	**After 400 women, each additional 125 women adds one toilet to the equation

Uniform Building Code Table 4.1

<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>
1 - 100 men = 1 toilet/1 urinal	1-50 women = 3 toilets
101 - 200 men = 2 toilets/2 urinals	51 - 100 women = 4 toilets
201 - 400 men = 3 toilets/3 urinals	101 - 200 women = 8 toilets
401 - 900 men = 4 toilets/5 urinals	201 - 400 women = 11 toilets
**After 400 men, each additional 500 men adds one toilet to the equation	401 - 525 women = 12 toilets
***After 600 men, each additional 300 men adds one urinal to the equation	526 - 650 women = 13 toilets
	651 - 775 women = 14 toilets
	776 - 900 women = 15 toilets
	**After 400 women, each additional 125 women adds one toilet to the equation

Proposed changes to Table A-29-A (SB 8)

<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>
Same table as A-29-A	1 - 50 women = 8 toilets
	51 - 100 women = 10 toilets
	101 - 200 women = 12 toilets
	201 - 400 women = 14 toilets
	401 - 525 women = 16 toilets
	526 - 650 women = 18 toilets
	651 - 775 women = 20 toilets
	776 - 900 women = 22 toilets
	**After 400 women, each additional 125 women adds two toilets to the equation



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Publisher

Patrick Dougherty
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Michael Carey, Editorial Page Editor

Gerald E. Gray, Publisher, 1984-1993
Katherine Fanning, Editor and Publisher, 1971-1983
Lawrence Fanning, Editor and Publisher, 1967-1971
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Housekeeping

A few of the early bills make sense

Alaska's lawmakers likely will burn midnight oil and many hours and spend much ink and computer memory on the state's budget deficit. If they lead well, they'll also devote a fair share of time to longer-range budget planning and decisions about what we want from state government and what and how we're willing to pay for it.

But they have smaller issues to tend as well.

Sen.-elect Kim Elton has a bill to reverse legislation that denies Alaska Permanent Fund dividend checks to Peace Corps and VISTA volunteers who are living outside the state. This is just common decency. Like soldiers and diplomats, these volunteers serve the United States and Alaska by trying to make life better for people. Like soldiers and diplomats, they're employees of the federal government. Like soldiers and diplomats, they deserve the same check that goes to other Alaskans.

Rep. Fred Dyson wants to require bounty hunters to notify police or Alaska State Troopers before they try to apprehend a fugitive. Professionals already do. But last fall on the Kenai, according to state troopers, three not-so-professional bounty hunters burst into a home and abducted a Washington man on the lam. This dimwitted raid could have resulted in trouble for all concerned and it wasn't necessary at all. Leave the maverick bounty hunter scenes to Hollywood. Leave the arrests to law enforcement officers.

Sen. Dave Donley wants to shorten lines for women at restrooms. His proposal requires 50 percent more toilets in women's restrooms than in men's restrooms for new public buildings that handle more than 100 people. This is about as basic as housekeeping gets. It may not be the sort of issue we think of when talk about representative government, but it is looking out for the people's best interests. There shouldn't be any objections.

This is all common-sense legislation.

Thornier issues are in the works already, too. Rep. Ramona Barnes wants to put all of the excess earnings of the Alaska Permanent Fund back into the principal, or corpus, of the fund. That could become part of the wider debate about the future of state government and how to pay for it.

Rep. Norman Rokeburg has a plan to split tobacco settlement money between medical assistance for needy Alaskans and anti-smoking programs. The latter will particularly appeal to anti-smoking activists, who argue with some logic that a tobacco settlement should go toward the fight against tobacco addiction. But the Knowles administration wants to use some of the money for child protection programs, and budget woes may prompt other lawmakers to mark the tobacco money for something else.

Lawmakers will bear the burden of the old curse — may you live in interesting times. May they be blessed with good judgment, senses of humor and generosity of spirit.

Good season

Hockey lights it up in Anchorage

Canada's favorite sport has long been a hit in Anchorage, where hockey is a natural. But this season so far has been particularly bright.

More ice in the works. Hockey players, along with oth-



MARLETTE
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Public radio helps Bush de

Let me state right up front that I have a vested interest in what I'm about to say. I am a member of the board of directors, a volunteer on-air announcer and a committed listener to our local public radio station in Barrow.

Actually, now that I think about it, I really don't have a vested interest in the radio station, since none of the above positions provide me with money or other personal gain. For the privilege of being a volunteer, I get to spend my Saturday mornings, summer evenings and New Year's Eve broadcasting shows. I get to spend my lunch hour at board meetings, and, despite my financial contributions during the annual membership drive, I'm not eligible for any prizes because of my affiliation with the station. I do all this because I firmly believe in the concept of public radio and its role in the life of our democracy.

When former Anchorage Mayor Tom Fink wrote about the state's current fiscal situation (Opinion, Dec. 21), he stated that the state should get out of the public radio business as part of its cost-cutting measures. That's a statement that can only be made by someone who does not live in Bush Alaska. It seems a logical extension of the negative attitude the Legislature has shown to the Bush over the past few years.

In order for a democracy to function well on all levels, it must have an informed



ELISE PATKOTAK

electorate. I don't know what it's like in other Bush areas of the state, but I do know that here on the North Slope, people are very interested in issues that affect them. It is not at all unusual to hear animated conversations going on at the store or the post office about the borough budget, whaling issues or the latest land-use regulations.

Without public radio in the Bush, these types of discussions will be sharply curtailed because the ability to get information to a wide audience in a cost-efficient manner will be gone. Our public radio station covers over 90,000 square miles. It receives \$150,000 from the state to provide this service. The people of the North Slope pledge over \$100,000 each year to help keep the station on the air. I'd say we are doing what we can to support our local station and let the world know how important it

is to our lives. I know the North Slope has an economy that many parts of Bush Alaska don't have. This means that people in other areas may not be able to support their station to the level that people here do. But that does not mean that they have any less right to be kept informed about the activities of their local, state and federal government. I firmly believe it is the responsibility of those governments to see that every citizen has access to information about government activities. Keeping the electorate in the dark is against everything a democracy stands for. Public radio is the cheapest and most efficient method of disseminating information that we have available today. Here on the North Slope, KBRW broadcasts everything from Assembly meetings to school board budget hearings to MMS discussions

Clinton's 'signature' plan is c

TFT

Subject: Women's restrooms

Date: Sun, 10 Jan 1999 14:58:47 -0900

From: Pamela Rogers <progers@alaska.net>

To: Senator_Dave_Donley@legis.state.ak.us

Thank God someone is finally taking the issue of toilets for women seriously. Senator Donley, are you aware that the Bank of America building, purchased by the legislature for state offices, has only two toilets in the women's bathroom on each floor? As opposed to the men's bathroom on each floor, which has two urinals and two toilet stalls.

I work for DNR, Division of Oil & Gas. We are slated to move there at the end of this month. When several of us (women) expressed concern about the lack of toilets, our male bosses and co-workers laughed at us. They think it's a real hoot. We don't.

According to Saturday's Daily News article, your bill will only apply to new public buildings. I am begging you to consider our plight, and to figure out a way to force the Dept. of Administration to provide adequate toilet facilities for its women employees in the BOA building.

The state is going to try to cram as many people as possible onto each floor, and half of those people are going to be women. For the the women to have only two toilets while the men have four is really unfair.

You're going to get a lot of derision and chiding over this issue. Don't let them. I can't begin to tell you how much I appreciate your recognition of this problem.

Pam Rogers
10501 Stroganof Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99516-7218

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