

**SB**

**78**

**Subject: Senate Keeps HAMS Operating**

**Date:** Tue, 20 Mar 2001 15:58:10 -0900

**From:** Laura Achee <Laura\_Achee@legis.state.ak.us>

**Organization:** Alaska State Legislature

Alaska State Legislature

Senator Robin Taylor

District A

**For Immediate Release: March 20, 2001**

**Contact: Sen. Robin Taylor, (907) 465-3873**

## **Senate Keeps HAMS Operating**

(JUNEAU) – The Alaska Senate passed legislation today ensuring that municipalities will give amateur radio operators reasonable zoning allowances to help keep them on the air.

“When disaster strikes in Alaska, our amateur radio operators, or HAMS, are there,” said Sen. Robin Taylor (R-Wrangell). “Within 15 minutes of the Good Friday earthquake in 1964, a Valdez radio operator was broadcasting damage reports and calls for aid. This commitment continues today. Amateur radio operators assisted with emergency communications during the Miller’s Reach fire in 1996, and the avalanches in Turnagain Pass and on the Thane Road in Juneau last spring.”

In 1985 the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued a rule that requires zoning authorities to reasonably accommodate amateur radio operators’ antenna needs. Senate Bill 78, sponsored by Taylor, would follow 10 other state legislatures by supporting this federal rule.

SB 78 would not allow municipal restrictions on radio antenna heights to be lower than the established FCC guidelines as outlined according to population density for a given area. The legislation would also allow radio antennas that are already built to remain if municipalities pass new zoning restrictions.

“Alaska is a vast country and when disaster strikes, quick and reliable communication is essential for saving lives and getting communities re-connected to the state as quickly as possible,” said Taylor. “Because of the key role our amateur radio operators play in our communications system, it is in the best interest of the state to help keep them on the air.”

###



**The national association  
for AMATEUR RADIO**



**Section Manager**

**Larry "Kent" Petty, KL5T  
21440 Falling Water Circle, Eagle River, AK 99577  
907-694-5856 kl5t@arrrl.net**

February 15, 2001

Senator Robin Taylor  
State Capitol, Room 30  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Taylor,

We, the members of the Alaska amateur radio community (over 3000 strong), are asking for your support in passing Senate Bill Number 78, entitled, "An Act relating to municipal regulation of radio antennas." This is a state affirmation of a 1985 rule issued by the Federal Communications Commission entitled PRB-1. As the federal rule says, our proposal simply requires that local zoning authorities reasonably accommodate the antenna needs of Amateur Radio operators. We are not attempting to "blaze" new territory. Ten states have already adopted state "PRB's," and others are in the drafting stage now. The language of the bill ensures that the minimal technical requirements to conduct amateur communications are preserved.

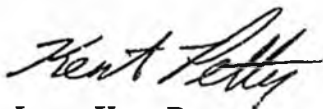
Your support of Amateur Radio operators in Alaska is important. Ham radio operators are valuable assets to the community. Historically, the Amateur Radio service has been at the forefront of communication technology. The concept of broadcasting began when listeners overheard amateur stations exchanging weather reports and baseball scores. The first land mobile systems were built by amateurs. Amateurs built the first single-sideband radios and the first handheld radios were built by amateurs. Even present day cellular telephone technology had its origins in amateur packet radio. There is an Amateur Radio station on the International Space Station to communicate with school children.

When a disaster strikes, Amateur Radio is there to assist with relief operations immediately. In 'ALASKA'S DARKEST HOUR' on that Good Friday in 1964, Amateur Radio operators were there and they did their job. We must admire the strength of that operator in Valdez, who was able to get on the air with damage reports and calls for aid, 15 minutes after losing his teenage son to the tsunami. Please read the account and service of Radio Amateurs in "The Alaska Story" from QST July 1964 attached to this letter. "Ham" Radio is as Alaskan as sourdough.

Amateur radio operators continue to practice their craft and directly support emergencies such as the Miller's Reach Fire, the Juneau/Thane Avalanche, and the Turnagain Pass Avalanche. They team with and work side-by-side with government agencies and officials during mass casualty and other disaster preparedness drills. They donate thousands of hours of support volunteering their time and equipment to provide communications for such public events as the Iditarod, Anchorage Fur Rendezvous, Walk for Hope, the Yukon Quest, and countless others.

Your support of this bill is critical to our ability to provide emergency and public service communications support to a wide array of customers throughout Alaska, the United States, and the world when needed – typically with no notice and when least expected.

Respectfully and Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Kent Petty".

Larry Kent Petty  
Amateur Radio Station KL5T  
Alaska Section Manager  
American Radio Relay League (ARRL)

# LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES  
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY  
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450  
FAX (907) 465-2029  
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

## MEMORANDUM

February 28, 2001

**SUBJECT:** Municipal regulation of radio antennas. (SB 78)

**TO:** Senator Robin Taylor  
Attn: Darrell Thomas

**FROM:** Tamara Brandt Cook *TBC*  
Director

Here is the sectional summary you requested.

**Sec. 1.** Makes the new provision in sec. 2 of the bill a home rule limitation.

**Sec. 2.** Requires a municipality that regulates radio antennas to reasonably accommodate amateur radio antennas. The municipality may require reasonable and customary engineering practices to be followed in the erection of amateur radio antennas and may not restrict the number of support structures for an antenna. Sets limits as to height restrictions that a municipality may place on amateur radio antennas. Within the restrictions set out, permits a municipality to impose requirements to meet clearly defined objectives with respect to the erection, maintenance, and operation of amateur radio antennas.

TBC:lmb:glc  
01-064.lmb

# Alaska State Legislature



*Chairman,*  
Judiciary Committee

*Vice-Chairman,*  
Administrative Regulations  
Revenue Committee

*Member,*  
Transportation Committee  
Resources Committee

**Senator Robin L. Taylor**

## **SPONSOR STATEMENT**

### **SB 78**

State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
(907) 465-3873  
Fax: (907) 465-3922

50 Front Street  
Suite 203  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901  
(907) 225-8088  
Fax: (907) 225-0713

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Amateur radio operators continue to practice their craft and directly support emergencies such as the Miller's Reach Fire, the Juneau/Thane Avalanche, and the Turnagain Pass Avalanche. They team with and work side by side with government agencies and officials during mass casualty and other disaster preparedness drills. They donate thousands of hours of support volunteering their time and equipment to provide communications for such public events as the Iditarod, Anchorage Fur Rendezvous, Walk for Hope, the Yukon Quest and countless others.

SB78 would give them the ability to provide emergency and public service communications support to a wide array of customers throughout Alaska, the United States and the world when needed, typically with no notice.

District A:

Hyder • Ketchikan • Kupreanof • Meyers Chuck • Petersburg • Saxman • Sitka • Wrangeli  
E-mail: [Senator\\_Robin\\_Taylor@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Robin_Taylor@legis.state.ak.us)

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bill Version: SB 78  
 () Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): 03/02/2001 2:55p.m. Dept. Affected: DCED  
 Title: Municipal regulation of radio antennas BRU: Comm. Asst & Econ. Dev.  
 Component: Community and Business Development  
 Sponsor: Senator Taylor Component Number: 2486  
 Requester: Senate CRA

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: \_\_\_\_\_

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2002 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation would have no fiscal impact on the department.

Prepared by: Pat Poland, Director  
 Division: Community and Business Development  
 Approved by: Commissioner Deborah B. Sedwick  
 Agency: Department of Community & Economic Development

Phone 269-4580  
 Date/Time 03/02/2001 2:55p.m.  
 Date 3/5/2001

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

# Alaska State Legislature

Senator Robin Taylor

District A

State Capitol Rm 30, Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182 Phone (907)465-3873 Fax (907)465-3922



## Memorandum

TO: Representatives Morgan and Meyer, Co-Chairs  
House Community & Regional Affairs

FROM: Senator Robin L. Taylor

DATE: March 27, 2001

RE: SB 78 – Request for Hearing

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SB 78 has been referred to House Community & Regional Affairs. I respectfully request that this bill be scheduled for hearing at your earliest convenience.

We have enclosed a copy of the Sponsor Statement and the Fiscal Note.

Should you have questions <sup>or</sup> need additional information, please call me at Ext. 3717.

Thank you for your consideration.

Darrell Thomas  
Special Projects

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