

**SB**

**148**

SFIN

FILE

SB 148

was referred to the  
Senate Finance  
Committee

Hearing(s) were held

The bill did not move  
from Committee

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



Senator John Torgerson, Chair  
Senator Drue Pearce, Vice Chair  
Senator Rick Halford  
Senator Pete Kelly  
Senator Robin Taylor  
Senator Kim Elton  
Senator Georgianna Lincoln

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## SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

### SPONSOR STATEMENT

#### SB 148

#### "Remote Water Storage for Fire Departments"

SB 148 instructs the Department of Natural Resources to construct remote water storage sites for fire protection. These sites will consist of 10,000-gallon underground storage tanks with a pump and a hydrant. DNR will solicit applications for these remote storage tanks from all the organized fire service areas statewide. Then the department will rank the applications and, based upon appropriations, construct as many as they can afford. The applications will be ranked by the following factors:

- Distance from an adequate water supply;
- Number of buildings to be protected;
- Extent of spruce bark beetle infestation;
- Ability of fire service to provide matching funds, maintain and operate the remote water storage site; and
- Other pertinent factors.

The need for remote water storage sites is evident in many areas of the state, especially in areas where beetle infested timber greatly increases the risk of catastrophic wildfire. This legislation will help protect the lives of those people living on the fringe of fire service areas. It will also reduce property loss and possibly lower ISO rates for our residents.

**CENTRAL EMERGENCY SERVICES**  
Central Kenai Peninsula Fire & EMS Providers  
231 SOUTH BINKLEY  
SOLDOTNA, AK 99869-8084  
907-262-4792 • Fax 907-262-5770



*"Prepared for the Worst,  
Providing the Best"*

**TESTIMONY ON SB 148  
REMOTE WATER SUPPLY FOR FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Resources Committee:

My name is Len Malmquist and I am the Fire Chief for Central Emergency Services in Soldotna. In addition, I am the Secretary/Treasurer for the Kenai Peninsula Fire Chiefs Association. The Kenai Peninsula Fire Chiefs has members in every fire department on the Kenai Peninsula.

SB 148 is a bill of special interest to all fire departments on the Kenai Peninsula. The bill would assist fire departments in establishing water supply sources in areas of need without other proven water sources. Half of the membership of the Kenai Peninsula Fire Chiefs Association represents small volunteer fire departments with very little financial resources that could be used to develop water supply sources. This bill is especially important to these departments. Specifically, the bill would provide vital assistance to Anchor Point Fire Service Area, Ninilchik Volunteer Fire Department, Funny River Volunteer Fire Department, and Cooper Landing Volunteer Fire Department.

Fire departments on the Kenai Peninsula are not the only departments that have a problem in establishing water sources to be used for emergency firefighting. This is a statewide problem that could be addressed over a period of years if this bill were enacted and funded in future years. Such water sources could also be used by the Division of Forestry for Wildland fire fighting should the need arise.

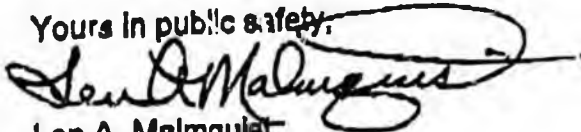
Adequate water supply is a criteria that is used when insurance companies rate a structure for insurance purposes. Passage of this bill may allow some property owners to obtain insurance that they have been unable to purchase due to a lack of water supply. Depending upon location, the water supply source may also assist in lowering insurance rates for some other property owners.

Central Emergency Services has included "rural water supply sources" in the legislative priority list to the Kenai Peninsula Borough every year for the past three years. We have several areas of need within our 2,200 square mile service area that would benefit from SB 148.

No fire department can extinguish fires without water. The more water sources that a department has available to them, the better they can provide firefighting services. SB 148 can only help the citizens of Alaska by assisting with the installation of additional water supply sources to be used for firefighting. I urge your support for SB 148.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions, please call me at 282-4792.

Yours in public safety,



Len A. Malmquist  
Fire Chief

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**Kachemak Emergency Service Area  
Kenai Peninsula Borough Annex  
P.O. Box 1849  
Homer, AK 99603**

March 10, 2001

Senator John Torgerson  
State Capitol, Room 516  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Torgerson,

Ric Plate, Kenai/Kodiak area fire management officer for the Division of Forestry, recently told us that you may promote a statewide program to improve fixed water supplies for fire suppression. We enthusiastically encourage you to do so. One of the big hurdles we face in developing our operating plan is locating sufficient accessible water in the outer reaches of our service area. We will soon ask Nikiski fire chief Billy Harris to meet with our board to share his great expertise in water supply systems. Once we have a plan, we will need funding, which is why we are very interested in your proposal.

If you have any questions about Kachemak Emergency Service Area or our significant and varied funding needs, please give me a call at 235-3725.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Mary Griswold*

Mary Griswold  
Board member

March 31, 2001

Senate Resources Committee  
State Capital  
Juneau AK 99801

Chairman Senator John Torgerson

I was prepared to testify on SB 148  
"Remote Water Storage for Fire Departments"  
on March 30, 2001, but since that hearing  
was cancelled, I am submitting the following  
written comments.

I am a member of the building committee  
for the Funny River Emergency Services. And  
we have started to develop fire station  
facilities for our area. We have 4.7 acres  
have started to establish a gravel pad  
building site. We have a water well  
drill pump installed with power source  
and a water supply in operation. We  
are buried (2) 10000 gallon still water  
tanks for fire recovery relief of  
tanks to fight fires in our area.  
All of these improvement are paid  
for through personal support by volunteers  
work by our over 400 members.

We intend to install pumps

31874 Moonshine Dr  
Soldotna AK 99662  
Mick Boudreau

Phone 262-0818

Thank you for your consideration.

The legislature support of our areas  
of force. We will build this much needed  
facility but will give responsible assistance  
we can accomplish it much sooner and may be  
not much later.

We are seeking grants from both  
the public and private sector.  
We are seeking additional support  
of other areas needing additional support  
medical emergencies and back up of  
volunteers who now respond to local  
and have an abundance with trained  
approximate 400 members who are active  
No have a committed membership of

use this summer.  
complete this much need facility for  
legislation in the funding needed to  
will be available thru this proposed  
He will appreciate any help that  
from in the Finny River area.  
of the pipe we scrounged we hope  
a rapid fast refill station for fighting  
in each of the tanks and with some

**SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT  
First Committee of Referral**

DATE: 3/16/01

FURTHER: Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: 3/29/01  
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 4/2/01

Resources Committee considered      SENATE BILL NO. 148

"An Act relating to remove water storage for fire departments."

and recommends:

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

**Senate Bill:**

- same title
- new title

**House Bill:**

- same title
- technical title
- new: SCR # \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#
Natural Resources	3/29/01	✓		1

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
<i>John L. Taylor</i>	✓			
<i>Irue Davis</i>	✓			
<i>Peter [unclear]</i>	✓			
CHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	✓			