

SB

355

SFIN

FILE

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

REPORTED OUT
 APR 30 2002
 SENATE FINANCE
 OFFICE

DATE: 4/12/02

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED IN TO OFFICE: 30 April 2002

Finance Committee considered

SENATE BILL NO. 355

SB 355 LET ME HELP ACCOUNT

"An Act establishing an account in the general fund to receive general gifts, donations, and bequests to the State of Alaska."

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#

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#
Admin.	7/10/02		✓	#1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	Do PASS	Do NOT PASS	No REC	AMEND
<i>Lyle Green</i>	✓			
<i>Allen Gustafson</i>	✓			
<i>John Hoff</i>			x	
<i>Bob Olson</i>	✓			
<i>Ernie Weidner</i>	✓			
<i>John D. Leman</i>	✓			
<i>John ...</i>	✓			
COCHAIR: <i>John ...</i>	✓			
COCHAIR: <i>Pete Kiddy</i>	✓			

FISCAL NOTE

REPORTED OUT
 APR 30 2002
 4:02 PM '02

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: SB 355
 (S) Publish Date: 4/12/02

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Administration
 Title "An Act establishing an account in the BRU Centralized Admin. Services
general fund to receive general gifts, donations, and bequest Component Finance
 Sponsor Senate HES by Request
 Requester (S) State Affairs Component No. 59

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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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 (Misc.)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0
 Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*
 Establishing accounts is within the normal scope of Division of Finance operations and therefore will not result in increased cost to the State.

Prepared by: Kim Garner, Director Phone 465-3435
 Division Division of Finance Date/Time 4/10/02
 Approved by: Jim Duncan, Commissioner Date 4/10/2002
 Agency Department of Administration

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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SENATOR LYDA GREEN SENATE DISTRICT N

Sponsor Statement SB 355 The "Let Me Help Fund"

Throughout the past year and especially during this current Legislative Session, a large, well organized minority of Alaskans have been pushing hard to force the Legislature to pass tax legislation. These Alaskans truly believe that they should contribute to state government, I agree that these Alaskans who want to make a contribution should have the ability to contribute. To let these persons help fund government, I introduced Senate Bill 355. Senate Bill 355 creates a new fund in the general fund to receive donations from those Alaskans who believe that our state government does not have enough money and who choose to help with their voluntary contributions.

The "Let Me Help Fund" was inspired by Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee's "Tax Me More Fund" which was established by executive order in Arkansas to let those who want more government help pay for it.

CHANCE FOR TAX PROPONENTS TO

Give money

FOR THOSE OF you in a dither to surrender a slice of your paycheck to Alaska's ever-growing state government, fortune is smiling upon you.

Sen. Lyda Green has offered Senate Bill 355 which would set up the "Let Me Help Fund," an account designed to, as she put it in her sponsor statement, "receive donations from those Alaskans who believe that our state government does not have enough money and who choose to help with their voluntary contributions."

At the end of each fiscal year, the money would be transferred to the general fund for government operations.

Green's proposal was based on Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee's tongue-in-cheek "Tax Me More Fund." He set up the fund last year as lawmakers there were trying to find new tax revenue. A few weeks back, we suggested Alaska follow Huckabee's lead, but Green was already way ahead of us.

In our view, it is wonderful that those who crave bigger, more intrusive government could — with the Legislature and governor's approval — soon have a means to pay more to the state without giving other Alaskans a pay cut.

They should be thanking the senator from Wasilla but, instead, they are in a snit over resistance to the notion of taxes.

A majority of Alaskans, of course, disagree with their thinking on taxes because the state has:

- A Permanent Fund stuffed with \$25 billion that earns something like \$700 million a year;
- Enough money to pay each resident an annual dividend, fund a longevity bonus and provide care for the elderly in Pioneer Homes;
- A \$7 billion total state government budget for a population of just 630,000;
- The nation's highest per capita government spending;
- The highest per capita total education spending, the highest educational spending as a percentage of personal income, and is fourth in kindergarten through 12th-grade spending per student; and,
- The nation's highest welfare benefits.

So, how much is enough when it comes to government? If it cannot get by on \$7 billion a year, how much of Alaskans' household budgets will it take in the future?

We hesitantly point out that those most insistent about saddling Alaskans with all manner of taxes — our friends on the opposite page immediately come to mind — for years have had the opportunity to voluntarily return their Permanent Fund dividend checks or donate money to the state, even without Green's fund. They could have taken the moral high ground in the tax debate. Turns out, darn few of them have kicked in a dime.

But then that's the problem with some of these folks who worship at the altar of big government.

They never tire of wanting to put your money where their mouths are.

BILL J. ALLEN
Publisher

Voice of the Times
A CONSERVATIVE VOICE FOR ALASKANS

WILLIAM J. TOBIN
Senior editor

Friday, April 26, 2002 B-7

**SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT
First Committee of Referral**

DATE: 3/27/02

FURTHER: Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: 4/5/02
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED IN TO OFFICE: 4/12/02

State Affairs Committee considered **SENATE BILL NO. 355**
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and recommends:

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- 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: SCF # _____

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#
DOA	4/10		✓	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>Robert E. Kelly</i>			✓	
<i>Betty Davis</i>			✓	
CHAIR: <i>Gene Thurnau</i>			✓	