

HB

394

STATE OF ALASKA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Representative Jim Holm



119 N. Cushman
Fairbanks, AK 99701
TEL 456-7423, FAX 451-9293

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
TEL 465-3466, FAX 465-2937

Sponsor Statement

HB 394

Extending the Alaska Commission on Aging

HB 394 extends the sunset date for the Alaska Commission on Aging until June 30, 2008. An audit dated October 1, 2003, recommends this extension.

The mission of the Alaska Commission on Aging (ACOA) is to ensure dignity and independence for Alaska's seniors and to assist them, through programs and services funded by the Commission, to lead useful and meaningful lives.

The Commission is charged with planning, advocacy, and interagency coordination on senior citizen issues.

Extending the Commission's sunset will allow Alaska's Senior Citizens to continue benefiting from these valuable services.

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MEMO

DATE: February 19, 2004

TO: Members of the House HES Committee

FROM: Representative Jim Holm 

RE: Attached committee substitute 23-LS1534\D
For HB 394

In 2003, Executive Order 108 moved the Alaska Commission on Aging from Department of Administration to Department of Health and Social Services.

Sections 2 and 3 of the proposed CS conform to this change.

23-LS1534D
Mischel
2/19/04

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 394()

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE HOLM

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act extending the termination date of the Alaska Commission on Aging and**
2 **making technical revisions to citations related to the commission."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 *** Section 1.** AS 44.66.010(a)(10) is amended to read:

5 (10) Alaska Commission on Aging AS 47.45.200 [(AS 44.21.200)] --
6 June 30, **2008** [2004];

7 *** Sec. 2.** AS 47.24.070 is amended to read:

8 **Sec. 47.24.070. Required review of proposed regulations.** Before adoption
9 by the department, regulations to implement this chapter shall be provided to the
10 Alaska Commission on Aging established under AS 47.45.200 [AS 44.21.200] for
11 review.

12 *** Sec. 3.** AS 47.30.016(b) is amended to read:

13 (b) The board consists of seven members appointed by the governor and
14 confirmed by the legislature. The members appointed under this subsection shall be

1 appointed

2 (1) based upon their ability in financial management and investment,
3 in land management, or in services for the beneficiaries of the trust;

4 (2) after the governor has considered a list of persons prepared by a
5 panel of six persons who are beneficiaries, or who are the guardians, family members,
6 or representatives of beneficiaries; the panel shall consist of

7 (A) one person selected by the Alaska Mental Health Board
8 established by AS 47.30.661;

9 (B) one person selected by the Governor's Council on
10 Disabilities and Special Education;

11 (C) one person selected by the Advisory Board on Alcoholism
12 and Drug Abuse established by AS 44.29.100;

13 (D) one person selected by the Alaska Commission on Aging
14 established by AS 47.45.200 [AS 44.21.200];

15 (E) one person selected by the Alaska Native Health Board;

16 and

17 (F) one person selected by the authority.

State of Alaska

Office of Boards and Commissions

AGING COMMISSION

BOARD: Alaska Commission on Aging

BOARD IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 071

DEPARTMENT: Department of Health and Social Services

AUTHORITY: AS 44.21.200

STATUS: Active

SUNSET DATE: 6/30/2004

REQUIREMENTS: No Legislative Confirmation or Financial Disclosure required

PROHIBITIONS: Cannot serve more than two consecutive terms or 8 consecutive years, whichever is longer.

TERM: 4 years

DESCRIPTION: 11 Members - Seven persons appointed by the Governor based on their knowledge and demonstrated interest in the concerns of older Alaskans; plus the chair of the Pioneers Homes Advisory Board; the commissioner of the Dept. of Administration or designee; the commissioner of the Dept. of Community and Economic Development or designee; and the commissioner of the Dept. of Health and Social Services or designee. Names of persons qualified for and interested in serving will be requested from senior citizens' organizations. Appointments shall be made to assure representation of low-income and minorities and rural/urban areas and statewide geographical representation. At least 6 persons appointed by the Governor shall be 60 years of age or older, 2 of whom shall be 65 years of age or older. Each must be a resident of the State of Alaska. Non-voting members include the Commissioners or their designees of the Dept. of Community and Economic Development, and the Dept. of Health and Social Services. Commission elects chair.

FUNCTION: Formulates a comprehensive statewide plan that identifies the concerns and needs of older Alaskans and prepares and submits to the Governor and Legislature an annual analysis and evaluation of the services that are provided to older Alaskans. Makes recommendations to the Governor and Legislature regarding legislation, regulations, and appropriations for programs or services that benefit older Alaskans. Encourages the development of programs and services which benefit older Alaskans, helping them to lead dignified, independent, and useful lives. Evaluates grant applications and makes grant awards under federal and state programs. Provides to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority recommendations concerning the integrated comprehensive mental health program for older Alaskans who suffer major mental illness as a result of senility (AS 47.30.056(b)(4)).

CHAIR: Commission selects.

SPECIAL FACTS: Serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Quorum - majority of voting members.
Meetings: four quarterly meetings per year

COMPENSATION: Standard Travel and Per Diem.

MEETINGS: At call of chair or majority of members; at least 4 times each year.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Steve Ashman

Director

Alaska Commission on Aging

DHSS, P.O. Box 110680

Juneau, AK 99811-0680

Phone: (907) 465-3372, FAX: (907) 465-1170

[Aging Commission Roster](#)

[Go to the Aging Commission Home page](#)

Letters of Support

February 13, 2004

Dear Representative Holm:

Thank you for your support of the Alaska Commission on Aging, please continue this by advocating that HB394 be approved.

The Alaska Commission on Aging assists seniors through state funded services to continue to live meaningful lives. The Commission provides support and services that enable seniors to remain in their homes and in their communities. These services promote health and well-being in our senior population

By supporting community-based services such as care coordination, respite and Adult Day Centers we are demonstrating that we value our seniors and their place in our communities.

Please continue your support for the Alaska Commission on Aging.

Sincerely,



Shelly Carlson
288 E. Birch Hill
Fairbanks, AK 99706



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A UNITED WAY AGENCY

February 12, 2004

Representative Jim Holm
State Capitol, Room 416
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Fax 907/465-2937

Dear Representative Holm:

Your House Bill 394 extending the Commission on Aging is of great importance to the elders of Alaska. The Commission allows for planning and coordination of services. A year ago I decided that I wanted to help the seniors of Alaska and in my research found that the Commission served a unique and important place in the constellation of agencies serving the elderly. They are able to look at the services with the consumer in mind to assure that there is adequate holistic planning.

I am pleased that you sponsored this legislation and on behalf of the volunteer seniors I applaud your efforts and the efforts of the Commission on Aging.

Yours truly,

Robert Coghill
Regional Director
National Senior Service Corps

February 13, 2004

Mr. James Holm
Fax: 465-2937

RE: Alaska Commission On Aging

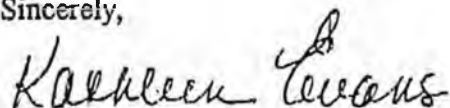
Dear Mr. Holm:

I am writing to thank you for supporting HB 394, the continuance of ACoA until June, 2008.

As you are no doubt aware, ACoA advocates for seniors all over the State and has staunchly supported the provision of Home and Community based services for this silent minority. The Commission keeps abreast of program changes in the State and works closely with the Legislature vis a vis senior issues.

With the recent cuts of services to seniors, I believe it is critical that ACoA be allowed to continue as advocates for our senior citizens.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Evans, B.S.W.
Care Coordinator



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

U.S. ADMINISTRATION ON AGING

Region X
RX-33
2201 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98121

February 12, 2004

The Honorable Jim Holm
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Room 416
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Holm:

I'm writing in strong support of House Bill 394 and Senate Bill 263 to extend the Alaska Commission on Aging to June 30, 2008.

The Commission performs an essential role in planning, developing and overseeing the Older Americans Act, and other programs to assist older Alaskans to remain in their own homes and communities as long as possible. Its initiative in coordinating Older Americans Act Title III programs with the Title VI Alaskan Natives programs (direct federal-tribal) is an exemplary national model. The Commission's leadership has also been very effective in fostering collaborative and creative partnerships with both the public and private sectors resulting in greater efficiency and enhanced services.

As the Commission members are seniors themselves, they provide a direct link to older Alaskans and their communities. And, as a vehicle for senior, community and research input, the Commission's analysis produces an ongoing vision for both current and future planning to meet the needs of a rapidly increasing and aging older Alaskan population.

It is essential that the excellent work of the Commission be continued.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chisato Kawabori".

Chisato Kawabori, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator



February 9, 2004

The Honorable Bruce Weyhrauch, Chair
House State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 102
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Chair Weyhrauch:

HB 394 (Holm)—Support

On behalf of the AARP members in Alaska, we encourage you and your colleagues on the House State Affairs Committee to support HB 394, sponsored by your Committee Vice-Chair, Jim Holm. HB 394 would extend the Alaska Commission on Aging until June 30, 2008.

Every state has a citizen advisory group that helps state government deal with the changing demographics of our aging society. Since 1990, Alaska has reversed the trend of retirees migrating "Outside" and, except for Nevada, Alaska now has the highest percentage of retirees who remain in their home state and do not relocate. Although our percentages are yet small, they reflect an "aging of Alaska" that will be similar to the other states of the Union.

There are many public policy issues, both opportunities and challenges, that come with this demographic trend. The Alaska Commission on Aging has for several years brought together some of our "best and brightest" minds to help our state deal with issues varying from housing to caregiving, from nutrition to long term care.

We need the Alaska Commission on Aging to continue its significant role in our State and for its citizens.

AARP recommends an "AYE" vote on HB 394.

If you have any questions about our position, please feel free to contact Marie Darlin, Coordinator of the AARP Capital City Task Force (907-586-3637); Patrick Luby, AARP Legislative Representative (907-762-3314); or me (907-245-5259).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marguerite Stetson

Marguerite Stetson
AARP State Coordinator for Advocacy
3009 Northwood Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99517-1871
907-245-5259 (voice)
907-245-5279 (fax)
ffmas@aurora.uaf.edu

CC: Vice-Chair Holm
Representative Coghill
Representative Lynn
Representative Seaton
Representative Berkowitz
Representative Gruenberg
Marie Darlin
Patrick Luby

February 13, 2004

Dear Representative Holm:

Congratulations and thank you for taking the lead in supporting the Alaska Commission on Aging. It is imperative that HB394 be approved. This commission is an extremely important entity, especially in these times of major change. The commission was established to ensure the dignity and independence of this state's seniors and to assist them, through state funded services, to lead useful and meaningful lives. Some of the goals include:

- 1) providing support and services to enable them to remain in their own homes and communities;
- 2) promoting health and well-being;
- 3) ensuring adequate training and professional development of service providers resulting in competent delivery of services to seniors; and
- 4) providing opportunities to facilitate maximum mutual benefit and harmony between generations.

Home and community-based services such as care coordination, in-home respite and Adult Day Centers are absolutely critical to helping seniors. The continued provision of these services are being threatened. Reduction of these services will be devastating to our elderly and ultimately more costly to the state of Alaska as placement in assisted living homes and nursing homes will become necessary for many.

Again, my thanks, Jim, for your support of the continuance of this commission.

Sincerely,



Brenda VonBrach
P.O. Box 60749
Fairbanks, Alaska 99706


February 13, 2004

Dear Representative Holm:

Thank you for sponsoring HB394. Your lead supporting the Alaska Commission on Aging is a true sign of your commitment to your community. This entity is very important and pertinent to all communities in Alaska. The signs of the times are not encouraging for services that are critical for improving the lives of our seniors. With this commission we can assure our seniors will be cared for with dignity. We must continue to support the provisions that are in place.

Your efforts are truly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Arleen Voorhees
400 Spruce St
Fairbanks, AK 99709

2/16/04

I am one of the four employees for Mountain View Food Service in Petersburg. We serve 30-40 dinners to the Senior Citizens 3 nights a week. About 1/2 that number are home delivered meals, to people who have come to depend on us. I have worked for this program for the last 10 yrs and I am dependant on this job. I would hate to see us lose funding for our program here in Petersburg. I love my job and the service we are able to provide to our seniors. Many times our clients have said "I don't know what we would do without you and the dinners" We need to keep our program going for our seniors.

Thank You,

Darnell Wilton

2/16/04

HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMTE

● Ruth W. Sandvik Box 526

Petersburg AK

Thank you Representative
Holm for House Bill 394. Alaska

Commission on Aging needs to
be extended ad infinitum.

● The need for its services is
expanding and vital to the
Alaskan seniors. I have

been with the Petersburg
program
~~contingent~~ since its inception.

Sincerely Ruth Sandvik
member Mt. View ~~Area~~
Food Services Board.

2/16/04

House State Affairs Comte:

On ~~to~~ The Alaska State Commission On Aging

Comment:

I would like to impress upon you how important the food service is to our seniors.

Many of our participants are living on minimum Social Security incomes, and since the State has taken away their \$250 per month Longevity Bonus payments, the State Subsidy that is paid for the three meals per week that the Food Service provides is all the more important to their survival and health maintenance.

If the State can afford to build new roads and bridges to no where and new Ferry Systems that no one wants or needs, then surely the pitiful amount that is provided for the Food Service cannot be a financial burden, and should not be eliminated.

Arlene Otness
Arlene Otness,
MT. View Food Service
Board Member.

Audit Report

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING
SUNSET REVIEW

October 1, 2003



Audit Control Number:

06-20025-03

Division of Legislative Audit
P.O. Box 113300, Juneau, Alaska 99811-3300

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

The Legislative Budget and Audit Committee is a permanent interim committee of the Alaska Legislature. The committee is made up of five senators and five representatives, with one alternate from the Senate and two from the House. The chairmanship of the committee alternates between the two chambers every legislature.

The committee is responsible for providing the legislature with audits of state government agencies. The programs and activities of state government now cost more than \$6 billion a year. As legislators and administrators try increasingly to allocate state revenues effectively and make government work more efficiently, they need information to evaluate the work of governmental agencies. The audit work performed by the Division of Legislative Audit helps provide that information.

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