

**HB**

**394**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT**

(7)

Date Referred to Committee: January 20, 2004

FURTHER REFERRALS: HES

Date of Committee Action: 2/17/04

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered:

HB 394

HOUSE BILL NO. 394

COMMISSION ON AGING

"An Act extending the Alaska Commission on Aging."

Recommends it be replaced with  HCS or  CS for \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)  
 For Senate Bills with new title:  Technical Title  New Title: HCR \_\_\_\_\_  Same Title  New Title

- attach amendments
- add new referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee
- Letter of Intent \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

- List of Abbrev for Depts.:
- ADM
  - CED
  - COR
  - CRT
  - EED
  - DEC
  - DFG
  - GOV
  - HSS
  - LEG
  - LAW
  - LWF
  - MVA
  - DNR
  - DPS
  - REV
  - DOT
  - UA

NEW FISCAL NOTES				
*Assigned by Chief Clerk's Office				
List by Dept(s):	*FN#	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero
HSS		✓		

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTES				
List by Dept(s):	FN#	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero

Signing with recommendations	Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>[Signature]</i>	Greenberg	✓			
<i>Paul R. Seaton</i>	SEATON	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	Holm	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	LYNN	X			
<i>[Signature]</i>	Coghill	✓		✓	
Chair: <i>[Signature]</i>		✓			
Chair: <i>[Signature]</i>					

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.

# State of Alaska

## Office of Boards and Commissions

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### 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

# State of Alaska

## Office of Boards and Commissions Roster

### AGING COMMISSION (071)

Member	Date Appointed	Reappointed	Term Expires
Frank B. Appel Public/Restricted 6424 Hampton Drive Anchorage, AK 99504	11/24/2003		9/1/2007
Steven P. Ashman Commissioner/Health and Social Services/or designee Division of Senior & Disability Services Alaska Department of Administration 3601 C Street, Suite 310 Anchorage, AK 99503-5984	7/29/2003		
Doris E. Bacus Public/Restricted 716 Mission Road Kodiak, AK 99615	9/20/1995	11/21/2000	9/1/2004
Ella H. Craig Pioneers' Homes Advisory Board Member 1416 Birchwood Street Anchorage, AK 99508	10/30/1998		
Jesse L. Gardner Public/Restricted 371 Ocean View Drive Anchorage, AK 99515	9/20/1995	10/10/2001	8/31/2004
Gene Kane Commissioner/DCED/or designee Division of Community Advocacy 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1770 Anchorage, AK 99501-3510	3/6/2003		
Daniel K. Karmun, Sr. Public/Restricted P.O. Box 819 Nome, AK 99762	9/20/1995	8/22/2001	8/31/2005
Betty (Elizabeth) Keegan Public/Restricted P.O. Box 1692 Wrangell, AK 99929	11/24/2003		9/1/2004
Banarsi Lal Public/Restricted 4532 Dartmouth Drive Fairbanks, AK 99709	6/5/2000	11/24/2003	9/1/2007
Ray Matiashowski Commissioner/Administration/or designee Department of Administration	3/5/2003		

PO Box 110200  
Juneau, AK 99811-2000  
Priscilla J. Thorsness  
Public  
2017 Crataegus Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99508

11/24/2003

9/1/2007

[Return to the fact sheet](#)

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bill Version: HB394-DHSS-DAS-02-12-04  
 ( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): 2/10/2004  
 Title EXTEND COMMISSION ON AGING

Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services  
 RDU Boards and Commissions  
 Component Commission on Aging

Sponsor HOLM  
 Requester HOUSE (STA)

Component No. 2674

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

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Personal Services	216.4	216.4	216.4	216.4	216.4	216.4
Travel	48.7	48.7	48.7	48.7	48.7	48.7
Contractual	80.3	80.3	80.3	80.3	80.3	80.3
Supplies	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>351.7</b>	<b>351.7</b>	<b>351.7</b>	<b>351.7</b>	<b>351.7</b>	<b>351.7</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)</b>						

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	48.8	48.8	48.8	48.8	48.8	48.8
1037 GF/Mental Health	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6
Other(1007 Interagency Receipts)	202.4	202.4	202.4	202.4	202.4	202.4
Other(1092 MHTAAR)	92.9	92.9	92.9	92.9	92.9	92.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>351.7</b>	<b>351.7</b>	<b>351.7</b>	<b>351.7</b>	<b>351.7</b>	<b>351.7</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2004) cost: 407.7

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time	2	2	2	2	2	2
Part-time	2	2	2	2	2	2
Temporary						

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

The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACOA) is due to sunset on June 30, 2004. The ACOA is tasked with helping older Alaskans lead dignified, independent, and useful lives. ACOA is authorized to administer and coordinate state programs for older Alaskans and to administer federal programs funded under provisions of the Older Americans Act (OAA). The ACOA is required by federal regulations. Section 305 of the Older Americans Act requires each state to designate an agency as the sole state agency to 1) develop and administer a state plan and 2) coordinate all state activities related to the Older Americans Act and 3) serve as an effective and visible (continued on page 2)

Prepared by: Sherry Hill, Special Assistant  
 Division Office of the Commissioner  
 Approved by: Joel S. Gilbertson, Commissioner  
 Agency Department of Health and Social Services

Phone 465-1618  
 Date/Time 02/03/2004  
 Date 02/12/2004

FISCAL NOTE  
FN #

STATE OF ALASKA  
2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB394-DHSS-DAS-02-12-04

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

advocate for the elderly, and 4) distribute funds to individuals with the greatest economic or social need. The Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) is designated as the sole state agency. The Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (DSDS) is responsible for coordinating all state activities and granting funds for older Alaskans. The ACOA has been charged with the responsibility of developing a state plan and working with the DSDS to implement the plan, and to serve as an effective advocate for the elderly. If the ACOA expires, the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) stands to lose \$13 million in federal dollars for senior services.

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 xThe need for its services is  
expanding and vital to theAlaskan seniors. I have  
been with the Petersburgprogram  
~~contingent~~ since its inception.Sincerely Ruth Sandvik  
member Mt. View ~~Area~~  
Food Services Board.

2/16/04

House State Affairs Comte:

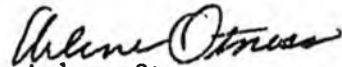
On ~~to~~ The Alaska State Commission On Aging

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,  
MT. View Food Service  
Board Member.

THE  
FOLLOWING  
DOCUMENT(S)  
ARE  
POOR  
ORIGINAL  
COPIES



FAIRBANKS LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE  
 119 N. CUSHMAN ST. SUITE 101  
 FAIRBANKS, AK 99701

WRITTEN TESTIMONY TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:	Representative Bruce Weyhrauch	FROM:	Fran/Fbx LIO
COMMITTEE:	House State Affairs, Chair	DATE:	2/17/2004
FAX NUMBER:	465-2273		
PHONE NUMBER:	465-2820	FAXED ON:	2/17/2004
RE:	Written Testimony: HB 394	TELECONFERENCE ON:	2/17/2004

URGENT     FOR REVIEW     PLEASE COMMENT     PLEASE REPLY     PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:  
 Written testimony for HB 394 heard before the HSTA committee, teleconference on 02/17/04. The original will be pouched to the committee chair.  
 Fran/Fbx LIO

**Alaska Commission on Aging Testimony  
HB 394**

Good Morning.

My name is Denise Daniello and I reside at 3844 Ullrbahn Road, Fairbanks, Alaska. I serve as the executive director of the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center in Fairbanks and want to speak in support of House Bill 394, to continue the Alaska Commission on Aging.

ACoA has been and continues to be a strong advocate for issues concerning Alaska senior citizens. It is the designated State agency that develops and administers the State Plan on Aging, in accordance with the provisions of the Older Americans Act. This commission also has the responsibility for planning and developing a comprehensive and coordinated system for the delivery of supportive services including multi-purpose senior centers, nutrition transportation, information/outreach, alzheimer's health care and other services for older adults. The Commission has also been a visible advocate for older individuals in Alaska.

We appreciate the valuable work the Alaska Commission on Aging has accomplished for Alaska senior citizens and support its continuation as an intact entity.

Thank you.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
Committee name

Committee on HB 329 R.I.P. dated 2-17-04  
Bill/Subject

IF THE EMPLOYEES WHO ARE TOPPED OUT ON THEIR SALARY SCHEDULES ARE GIVEN AN INCENTIVE TO RETIRE, I THINK MANY WILL. IF NEW EMPLOYEES ARE ADDED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SALARY SCHEDULE, THIS SHOULD RESULT IN SAVINGS OF \$20,000 - \$30,000 PER EMPLOYEE PER YEAR.

Signed: BRUCE C. GUNDERSON *Bruce C. Gunderson*  
Testifier

Representing (Optional)  
HC 89 BOX 621 WILLOW, AK 99688  
Address  
HM 907-733-2528 WK 907-733-2241  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs Committee  
Committee name

Committee on HB 329 dated 2-17-04  
Bill/Subject

Please consider HB329 as a way to decrease spending statewide. Many layoffs are now predicted. The passing of HB329 would relieve budgets across the state.

Thank you for listening.

Signed: Cathy Tsch  
Testifier

Representing (Optional)  
P.O. Box 155, Talkeetna, Alaska 99676  
Address  
(907) 733-2155  
Phone number



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](mailto:ffmas@aurora.uaf.edu)

CC: Vice-Chair Holm  
Representative Coghill  
Representative Lynn  
Representative Seaton  
Representative Berkowitz  
Representative Gr. enberg  
Marie Darlin  
Patrick Luby

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

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

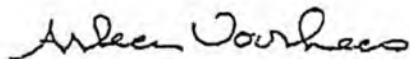
February 13, 2004

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

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

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 looked 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

# Alaska Commission on Aging State Plan for Services 2004 - 2006

## The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA)

*"... 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 Alaska Commission on Aging, located in the Department of Health and Social Services, consists of eleven members, nine of whom are voting members (AS 44.21.200, as amended by Executive Order 108):

- Seven voting public members appointed by the Governor who serve four-year terms;
- Chairman of the Pioneers' Homes Advisory Board, a voting member;
- Commissioner of the Department of Health and Social Services, or designee, a voting member;
- Commissioners of the Departments of Administration and Community and Economic Development or designee, non-voting members.

### Director, Division of Senior and Disabilities Services: Steve Ashman

Address: Division of Senior and Disabilities Services, P.O. Box 110680, Juneau, AK 99811-0680

Phone: (907) 465-3165

Fax: (907) 465-4716

### Executive Director, Alaska Commission on Aging: Vacant

Address: Alaska Commission on Aging, P.O. Box 110693, Juneau, Alaska 99811-0693

Phone: (907) 465-3250

Fax: (907) 465-1398

## Purpose of the State Plan

States receiving federal Older Americans Act funds are required to develop and publish a State Plan for Services. As required by law, the plan describes how states propose to use federal Older Americans Act funds to provide senior services. The Administration on Aging, within the federal Department of Health and Human Services, approves the plans. In addition to describing its use of federal funds, the Alaska Commission on Aging plan describes how state funds for senior services will be used and outlines a direction and goals for the future. This plan will serve for the period from June 14, 2004 to June 13, 2006.

## Public Comment

The Alaska Commission on Aging made a concerted effort to solicit and incorporate public input in the development of this plan. The Commission routinely invites public comment at its meetings and reaches out to local government senior advisory boards and commissions for consultation. Commission staff regularly engages with grantee agencies regarding emerging issues and dynamics affecting older Alaskans. The information and perspective drawn from these

discussions has been valuable in the development of this plan. To ensure that the development of the State Plan for Services received visibility and focused public input, the Alaska Commission on Aging and staff held public hearings in January in Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks and during its February 2003 Commission meeting in Juneau. In addition, public comments were accepted via teleconference at each of the public hearings. Selected sections of the draft state plan were published in the December 2002 issue of *Senior Voice* newspaper and multiple public notices were issued in the Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks newspapers as well as on the State of Alaska Online Public Notice system. Title VI grantees (see Appendix A) were notified and invited to participate in the public hearings. Overall, comments were accepted from November 1, 2002 to February 20, 2003 by e-mail, fax, phone, and in person. Collectively participants from many Alaskan communities were involved in the review and comment regarding this plan (see Appendix E).

### Writing the Plan

The Plan was produced by the work of ACoA staff. Contributors include Ingrid Zaruba, Research Analyst with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development; Jim B. McCall, Housing Relations Manager/Mortgage Operations with the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation; Division of Health and Social Services staff; and Division of Senior Services staff. Special thanks to Rebecca E. Braun, Editor and Mary Ann Gosling, project lead.

# Alaska State Plan on Aging

## Overview

According to recent Census data, there are approximately 53,000 seniors aged 60 and older in the State of Alaska. Seniors make up about 8% of the total state's population. The senior population is estimated to double by 2010 and triple by 2025. A majority of the seniors from the Baby Boomer generation will begin leaving the workforce and retiring beginning in 2006. Each of us confronts the question: how do we fully realize our potential and sustain our independence in the later years of our lives? The Alaska Commission on Aging engages Alaskans from across the state to ask these questions and work together to answer them. In turn the Commission advocates for state policy, public and private partnerships, state/federal projects and citizen involvement that assists each of us to age successfully in our home community, or as close to home as feasible. Our work involves planning, advocacy, and interagency collaboration on issues affecting older Alaskans. The Commission was established under AS 44.21.200 in 1982. It is housed in the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Boards and Commissions. Increasingly, the Commission is called upon to advise the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services in its work, and to provide representatives to project workgroups convened by the Division.

The Commission has broad responsibilities. The Commission reaches out to inform Alaskans of the dramatic growth in the older Alaskan community. The Commission continues to expand this outreach and education with advocacy and service organizations statewide. The Commission also advises the Department in its direct grant work with local grantee agencies. These organizations generate additional monies to fully fund the cost of these vital services. Department grants are funded with a mix of monies from the Older Americans Act, the State of Alaska, and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA). Grant programs include Nutrition, Transportation and Support Services (hot meals, essential transportation and selective support services) and the Senior Community Service Employment program, funded through the federal Older Americans Act (OAA) and state monies. Home and Community-Based Services grants (care coordination, adult day services, in-home respite care, and related caregiver services) are funded by AMHTA, the Older Americans Act, and state funds. Senior Residential Services grants are supported solely by state monies. The Commission has a cooperative agreement with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority under which the Trust provides oversight and administrative support for Alaska's office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO). The Commission continues its working relationship with the LTCO office, and will annually transfer Older Americans Act funding for operation of the LTCO to the Trust, as well as any OAA increases earmarked for LTCO programs. The Commission will continue to receive regular LTCO reports regarding the work of the office, trends and emerging issues, and to get their input regarding legislation affecting the safety and well-being of Alaskans age 60+ receiving long-term care.

Eleven Alaskans sit on the Commission: seven are gubernatorial appointees who serve four-year terms. The additional four members are the commissioners of the Departments of Administration, Health and Social Services, and Community and Economic Development, or

their designees, and the Chair of the Pioneers' Homes Advisory Board. Current commissioners are:

Banarsi Lal, (Chair) Fairbanks  
Dan Karmun, Nome  
Jesse Gardner, Anchorage  
Doris Bacus, Kodiak  
Frank B. Appel, Anchorage  
Elizabeth Keegan, Wrangell  
Priscilla J. Thorsness, Anchorage

Ray Matiashowski, Deputy Commissioner,  
Department of Administration, Juneau  
Steve Ashman, Department of Health and Social  
Services, Designee, Juneau  
Gene Kane, Department of Community and  
Economic Development, Designee  
Ella Craig, Chair, Pioneers' Homes Advisory  
Board, Anchorage