

HB

60

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

RULES COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN
LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE, MEMBER
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MEMBER
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON OIL & GAS, MEMBER
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE, MEMBER

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ALASKA STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
PHONE (907) 465-4968
FAX (907) 465-2040

Representative Norman Rokeberg

e-mail: Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us

SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR HB 60

BY: Representative Norman Rokeberg

Title: An Act relating to construction of a legislative hall

HB 60 creates fair and equitable competition for the construction of a new legislative hall for Alaska.

This legislation permits the Alaska Legislative Council to develop specifications and solicit proposals for a new legislative hall. The bill allows proposals from borough or unified municipalities with at least 30,000 residents, which would include Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna, Fairbanks, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Juneau, and Kenai Peninsula Borough.

The current capitol building was finished in 1931. While efforts have been made to update the building, there is only so much that can be done to address its major problems. These problems include: corridors which do not meet the current fire and safety building codes; limited ingress and egress for the disabled; lack of amenities such as parking and a public lounge; antiquated heating and ventilation systems; inadequate wiring for electrical and telecommunication services; and insufficient office, chamber, and committee space. The capitol building has outlived its usefulness as a legislative hall, and it is time to have a modern, functional building.

Upon making a selection, the Legislative council will be responsible for carrying out the terms of the proposal, and for the operation and maintenance of the building. The rent would be set at \$1 per year. The new building will be completed and ready for occupancy by June 30, 2006.

HB 60 will provide Alaskans with an up-to-date, accessible, and safe legislative hall - a distinguished symbol of our government and a structure that Alaskans can be proud of.

I would urge your support of this legislation.

ED1: 02/24/03

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SECTIONAL ANALYSIS FOR HB 60 BY: Representative Norman Rokeberg

Title: An Act relating to construction of a legislative hall

Section 1: Findings

Section 2: Specifications for Legislative Hall. Directs Legislative Council to develop specifications by December 15, 2003 for construction of new legislative hall. Sets forth that specifications must include at least the following space:

- Private office for each legislator and legislator's staff
- Larger private offices for Speaker of House and Senate President
- Chamber for each body with electronic voting boards and other appropriate equipment and galleries to accommodate 150 people in addition to media
- Private lounge for legislators, on same floor as chambers, with cooking facilities
- 18 committee rooms, with space for committee staff, 11 committee members, and at least 75 public members
- Office suites for Governor, Lt. Governor, and Commissioners for their use when they visit legislative hall
- One courtroom and adequate offices for judicial officers of the Supreme Court and staff
- One photocopy service room on each floor
- Public lounge and restaurant
- Rooms for security staff, documents, and supplies
- Office space for each agency of legislative branch that Council determines should be located with the legislature
- Office space for Senate Secretary and House Clerk

- Print Shop
- Maintenance Shop
- Media office
- Area adequate for electronic technology and telecommunications equipment and cabling
- Rotunda or atrium for public meetings, celebrations and events
- Facilities for display of Alaska historical exhibits and artifacts

Parking must also be addressed and must include at least the following:

- Covered parking for 75 vehicles on site of legislative hall
- Parking for at least 300 vehicles on site or adjacent to hall
- Covered walkways from parking areas to hall
- Parking area for an additional 150 vehicles near hall
- Total parking space must equal or exceed amount in Uniform Building Code current on date specifications are complete

Section 3: Proposals for Legislative Hall. May be submitted by boroughs or unified municipalities with a population of at least 30,000.

- Must include details regarding financing of project and terms on which hall will be made available to legislature
- Lease payments by legislature may not be in excess of \$1
- Hall must be completed before June 30, 2006

Proposal evaluation shall also consider:

- Availability of basic utility service
- Adequate airport access
- Adequate road or weekly winter ferry service
- Adequate health, education and social service facilities
- Adequate housing opportunities

Section 4: Selection of a Proposal. Council must select or reject all proposals by June 30, 2004. If proposal selected, Council will enter into contracts, leases, etc. If proposal includes a site wholly or partially on state land, Council shall take all actions to arrange for transfer of land to municipality at no cost. AS 36.30.020 and AS 35.05.010 do not apply to this Act.

Section 5: Transition. The first regular session of 25th Legislature and all thereafter shall convene in hall. The Revisor shall propose legislation making all changes to statutes necessary to conform to this section.

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April 9, 1998

Mr. Don Johnston, Maintenance
Legislative Affairs Agency
State Capitol Building - Room 12
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Don:

Attached is the fire inspection report you requested on the State Capitol Building. This report was prepared by both the Fire Marshal and the Building Official of the City and Borough of Juneau.

After carefully reviewing the report, it appears to me that the majority of items needing attention are of a house keeping nature with a minimum cost associated to them. (For example, adding a flammable liquid storage cabinet in the workshop area, providing a portable fire extinguisher in the kitchen area, documenting various test reports on existing systems throughout the building, etc.).

The one item needing the most consideration involves the building corridors because some of them are also part of the exit system. In this regard, you have eighteen months to develop a plan to bring the corridors up to compliance.

As I understand it, you accompanied Fire Marshal Curtis Jones on the inspection so the above mentioned items probably don't come as a surprise.

If there is anything else we can do to be of assistance, please call me or Curtis.

Respectfully,

CAPITAL CITY FIRE RESCUE

Michael L. Doyle
Fire Chief

MD:djb

c: Curtis Jones, CBJ Fire Marshal
Chris Roust, CBJ Building Official
Dave Palmer, City Manager



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April 9, 1998

Mr. Don Johnston, Maintenance
Legislative Affairs Agency
State Capitol Building
Room 12
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Don:

Thank you for your assistance during the February 19, 1998, fire inspection of the State Capitol Building by Juneau Fire Marshal Curtis Jones. This appears to have been the first request for such an inspection of the Capitol since the State Fire Marshal deferred enforcement of the building and fire codes to the City and Borough of Juneau in 1982.

The codes sections cited below are from the 1994 editions of the Uniform Fire Code (UFC) and the Uniform Building Code (UBC).

- 1) **WORKSHOP:** Fire rated door separating the workshop from the boiler room must be provided with an automatic closing device. The door shall remain in the closed position unless held open by an approved holding device which will allow the door to close upon activation of the fire alarm system (UFC 1112).
- 2) **PAINT LOCKER:** If flammable or combustible liquids are used in the workshop area, no storage is allowed in this room outside an approved Flammable Liquid Storage Locker. This area is classified as Hazard Occupancy. The exit door from the paint spray room must swing in the direction of exit travel. Please provide Explosive Proof Construction data for the concealed exhaust fan (UFC 7902.5.9).
- 3) **ELEVATOR / MAIN STAIRWAY:** Please provide a copy of the test report by an individual or company holding a valid permit as required (IJAAC 50.035) showing that elevator recall and stairway doors close upon activation of the fire alarm system (UFC Appendix I-A 3).
- 4) **KITCHEN:** Provide a portable fire extinguisher with a minimum of 40 BC rating. This extinguisher must be mounted no more than five feet in height from the top of the extinguisher and within 30 travel feet from the stove (UFC 1006.2.7 & UFC Standard 10-1).
- 5) **GENERAL STORAGE:** Throughout the building, reduce storage height to at least two feet below ceiling. Exception: when storage is against a wall (UFC 1103.3.2.2).

- 6) **EMERGENCY POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM:** Please provide a copy of the biannual maintenance test report for the emergency power supply system (UFC Standard 5.6) (NFPA 110-6.3).
- 7) **FIRE ALARM SYSTEM:** Please provide a copy of the annual fire alarm test report. Test report must include the name of the company or individual and their valid permit number as required by State Fire Marshal (13 AAC 50-035) (UFC1001.4 & CBJ Title 19.09.010(b)(13)).
- 8) **STANDPIPE SYSTEM:** Please provide a copy of the five year standpipe test report for the interior and exterior systems. Report must include the name of the company or individual and their valid permit number as required by State Fire Marshal (13 AAC 50-035) (UFC101.4 & CBJ Title 19.09.010(b)(17)).
- 9) **CORRIDOR WIDTH:** The required width of the corridors shall be unobstructed. Exit travel through an intervening room may be allowed provided the exit door meets the required minimum width, has no locking devices, and has smoke detectors that are connected to the fire alarm system located on each side of the door (UFC Appendix I-A 2.3 & UBC Appendix 3407.3).
- 10) **GUARDRAILS:** The fire escape guardrails installed under building permit 9442 issued in September of 1973 appear to not have been inspected for building code compliance. The 1970 Uniform Building Code, which was in effect at the time, in section 1714 called for 42" high guardrails on the fire escape landings and stairs with intermediate rails spaced such that an object 9" in diameter could not pass through. Current codes call for no more than 4" spacing between intermediate rails. The existing guardrails do not meet either the 1970 or current codes.
- 11) **CORRIDORS:** The Uniform Building Code and Uniform Fire Code sections dealing with Life Safety in Existing Non-High Rise Buildings contain requirements for corridors which are a part of an exit system serving an occupant load of 30 or more in an office building. Such corridor walls and ceilings shall have not less than one hour fire resistive construction, doors shall be 20 minute fire rated with self closers and smoke gaskets, and transoms shall have ¼ hour rated fixed glazing (UFC Appendix I-A 2.3 & UBC Appendix 3407.3).

City records show that the Capitol was built in 1929 which was two years after the first edition of the Uniform Building Code was written and long before it was adopted in Alaska. The 1927 edition of the UBC did not require fire protection of corridors in new buildings and the UBC did not have a requirement for fire protection of corridors in existing non-high rise buildings until the 1982 edition. The concept of a fire protected corridor, free from smoke, allowing safe exiting of the occupants of a building during a fire is now a fundamental life safety requirement of building and fire codes throughout the world.

The requirement for such fire ratings may be eliminated if an approved automatic sprinkler system is installed throughout the building. There may be other options to allow this building to retain its historic character with approval of the building official. Examples include covering door panels less than 1 3/8 inches thick with wood-trimmed sheet rock and installing fixed ¼ hour fire rated windows behind frosted glass door windows in doors or transoms.

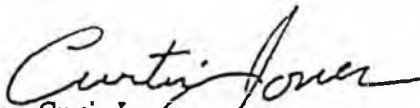
We have attached some information concerning the preservation of historic building components from the Uniform Code for Building Conservation as well as Appendix Section 3407.3 from the Uniform Building Code concerning corridor protection.

Items 1 through 9 must be addressed immediately and should be completed within 21 days of receipt of this report.

Within 18 months of receipt of this report, plans for compliance with items 10 and 11 shall be submitted and approved by CBJ Building Department and within 18 months thereafter the work shall be completed.

If you have any questions concerning this report and the code requirements stated herein, please call Curtis Jones at 789-2052 or Chris Roust at 586-5230.

Sincerely,



Curtis Jones
Fire Marshal
Capital City Fire/Rescue



Chris Roust
Building Official
City and Borough of Juneau



820 Glacier Avenue • Juneau, Alaska 99801
Telephone (907) 586-5322
Fax (907) 586-8323

January 23, 2003

Mr. Don Johnston
Legislative Affairs Agency
State Capital Building, Room 12
Juneau, AK. 99801-1182

Mr. Johnston:

Thank you for your time meeting with me today and discussing the 1998 Fire Inspection completed by Fire Marshal Curtis Jones. I am pleased to see the progress that has been made to your facility. The emergency fire escape upgrades that were completed in November of 2002 are well within the current code standards.

The office off the Committee Room near the emergency fire escape has chairs and tables that encroach upon the egress path. *These must be removed from that area immediately. IFC 1003.2.8*

All reports are current and on file in your office as required. The fire alarm, stand pipe, elevator, and emergency power were all in order.

You have installed the fire rated door and several paint lockers in the work shop area, as requested.

The kitchen area has a current hood inspection report and all of the fire extinguishers are current with the annual inspections.

A copy of your Emergency Action Plan is on file at the Fire Department.

The issue of the corridors is still a concern, reference 1998 fire inspection report. The Fire Department requests a written plan on how you intend on complying with the Fire Code minimum requirements for existing buildings, within 60 days of this letter.

On April 9, 1998, you were allowed 18 months to submit an approved written plan to the Building Department on how the building is going to be brought into compliance and 18 months to complete the work required. Neither the Building Department nor the Fire Department have received the requested plans.

RECEIVED

MAR 14 2003

Legislative Affairs Agency
Maintenance

We discussed several options including sprinklers for the building, or bringing the corridor into compliance with fire rated doors, windows and elevator shaft. This building has not been analyzed for compliance with the existing building provisions of the 2000 International Fire and Building Codes as adopted by the State of Alaska. We have verified that the corridors are out of compliance with these codes but it may be that other factors are lacking as well. We recommend that your office obtain the services of a design professional to perform a code analysis and offer you alternatives for compliance. It may be that a sprinkler system is required for the building and that a sprinkler system may eliminate several of the other corridor requirements as well as help the building retain its historic appeal.

If you have questions concerning the 1998 fire report or code requirements, please contact Chris Roust at the Building Department or myself.

Respectfully,



Richard Etheridge
Fire Prevention Officer

CC: John MacKinnon, CBJ City Manager.
Mike Doyle, CCF/R Fire Chief.
Chris Roust. CBJ Building Department.

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MAR 14 2003

Legislative Affairs Agency
Maintenance



820 Glacier Avenue • Juneau, Alaska 99801
Telephone (907) 586-5322
Fax (907) 586-8323

January 23, 2003

Mr. Don Johnston
Legislative Affairs Agency
State Capital Building, Room 12
Juneau, AK. 99801-1182

Mr. Johnston,

After reviewing your request reference the blocking or removal of doors within the Capital Building. The fire department is requesting that the number of exits into the corridor and exits from the buildings not be altered.

1001.2 of the 2000 edition of the International Fire Code, which was adopted by the State of Alaska states:

It shall be unlawful to alter the building or structure in a manner that will reduce the number of exits or the capacity of the means of egress to less than required by this code.

The fire department regrets any inconvenience that this may cause, but public safety must remain our main priority.

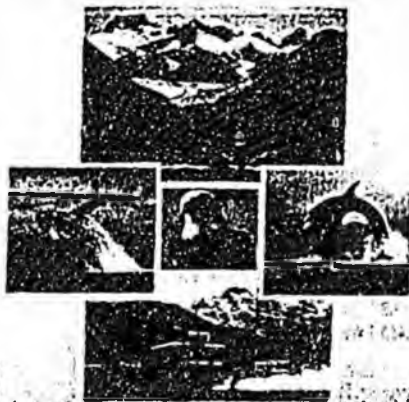
Respectfully,

Richard Etheridge
Fire Prevention Officer

CC: Mike Doyle, CCF/R Fire Chief
Chris Roust, CBJ Building Department

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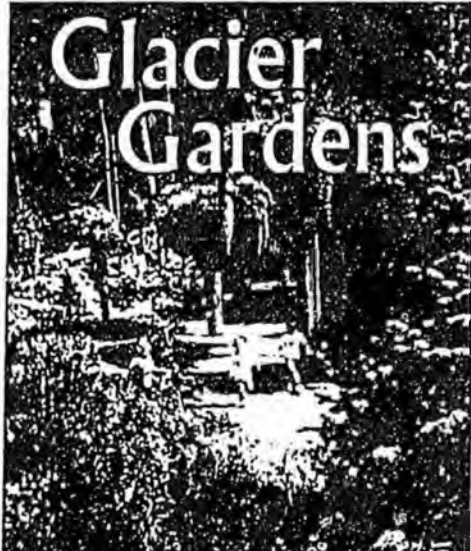
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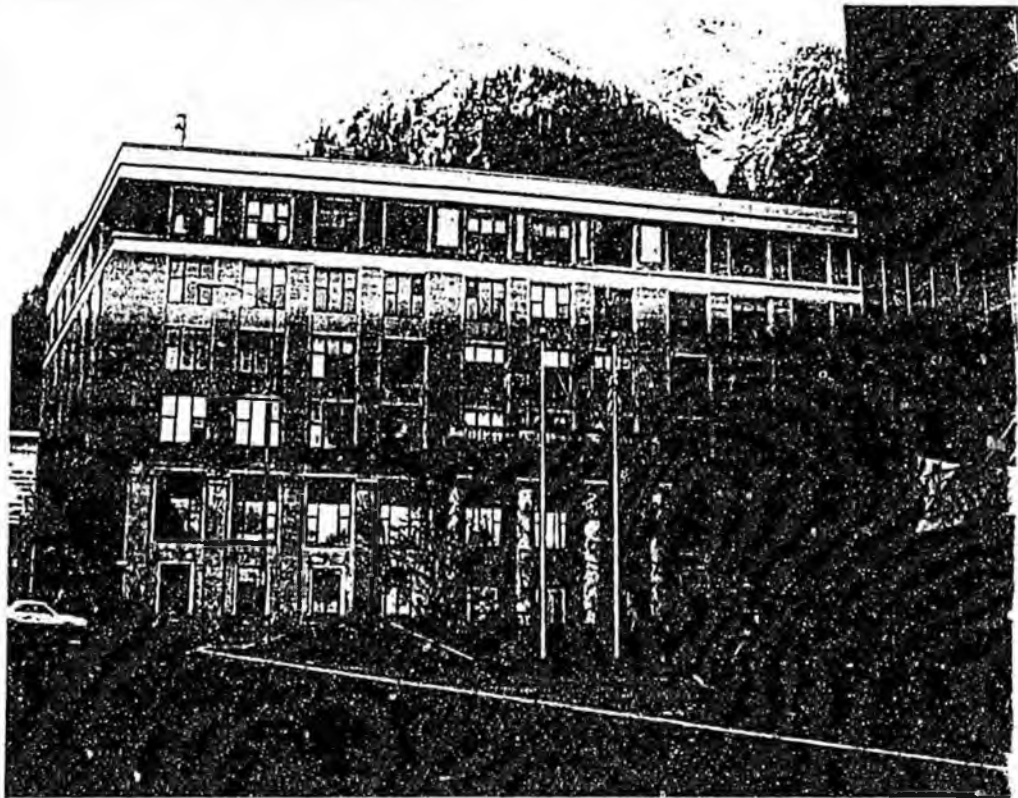
Past & Present

Alaska's Capitol in Juneau, Alaska's capitol, had its seventieth birthday last winter without cake, candles or any special observance. Back in January 1931 it had just been completed as the Federal and Territorial Building and offices, both federal and territorial, were moving in.

It so happened that I was beginning my first paid newspaper job just then, on *Stroller's Weekly*, a paper now

lobby from Seward Street. Also a much-visited section was the Territorial Library and Museum on the west side.

The two legislative chambers were in the east wing of the second floor, with the chambers for the eight members of the Senate at the front, the larger chambers for the sixteen members of the House at the north end of that wing. But as the legislature was in session only



defunct. The occupation of the building provided several news stories, but seventy years have brought many changes in the building.

The ground floor, back then, was occupied by the Alaska Communications System, a branch of the Army Signal Corps, on the east side of the building. The west side held the U.S. Customs Service, the boiler room and some storage rooms.

The part of the building most visited by the general public was the U.S. Post Office which occupied the entire east wing of the first floor. There was a separate entrance to the Post Office

for 60 days every other year; the rooms of that wing were mostly vacant at first, then occupied between sessions in later years by other branches of government.

The offices of the Governor and Secretary of Alaska (since renamed Lieutenant Governor) and their staffs occupied the east wing of the third floor. Until statehood, they were federal officials, appointed by the President. The top floor, the fifth, was also all federal, occupied by the Department of Justice: the District Court, Clerk of the Court, U.S. Marshal, U.S. Attorney, U. S. Commissioner, and their staffs.

Scattered through the remainder of

it

By Bob DeArmond

the building were almost all the government offices then in Juneau, federal and territorial. Among the federal offices were the Forest Service, Bureau of Fisheries, Alaska Game Commission, Alaska Road Commission (then still a part of the Army), Bureau of Public Roads, Geological Survey, Treasury Disbursing Officer, Weather Service, and perhaps others. There were few territorial offices back then: Treasurer, Attorney General, Commissioner of Education, Auditor, Highway Engineer.

I visited the building frequently that year and my memory is of many vacant rooms. Perhaps twenty per cent of them were empty. Currently, in 2001, two programs have been proposed in the Legislature: 1) Evict the Governor and Lieutenant Governor and their staffs so the legislature can occupy the empty building; 2) Move the legislature to Matanuska or some such place. If both proposals are enacted the building will be as empty as it was when I first saw it in January 1931. Keep your fingers crossed!

The Names of Our Towns: Angoon has been the official name of this town on the west side of Admiralty Island since the U.S. census of 1880 which found 420 people there, but the name's origin is uncertain. Soon after 1880 many of the people moved a short distance to Killisnoo where a plant had been built to produce whale oil, then herring oil. Angoon stands at the entrance of Kootznahnoo Inlet and that was the name by which, with various spellings, the town was originally called. That name, according to the *Orth Dictionary of Alaska Place Names*, is derived from "the Tlingit word 'Khutz-n hu.' meaning 'bear fort.'" Despite the 1880 census use of Angoon, the Sitka newspaper, *The Alaskan*, continued to use Kootznahnoo at least until 1900. Angoon got a post office in 1928. After the Killisnoo plant closed, most of the people moved back to Angoon and the Killisnoo post office was moved there in 1930. Our latest census figures give a population of 572, up 1 from ten years ago. ■

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Rick Breseman: Candidate-Sealaska

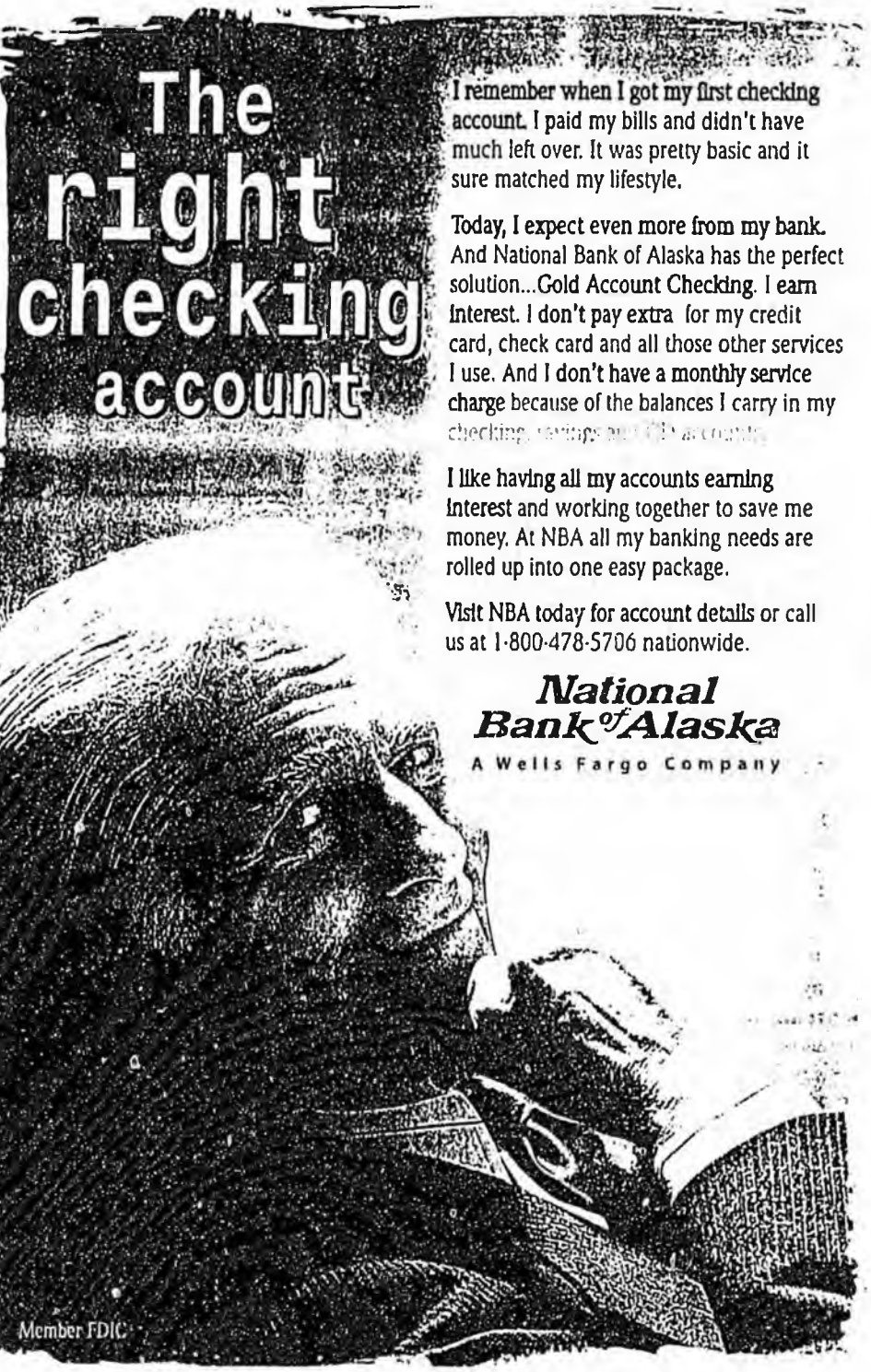
Experience:

- 20 years Alaska based/internationally focused.
- Senior management positions at Afognak Native Corporation, Halk Corporation, Sealaska Timber Corporation.
- Development of export markets: Japan, Korea, India, Taiwan, Canada, Peoples Republic of China.

Education:

- Executive Masters Degree & Bachelor's Degree, Business Administration with concentration in International Business & Marketing.

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Representative Norman Rokeberg

e-mail: Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us

Memorandum

To: Representative Weyrauch, Chairperson
House State Affairs Committee

From: Representative Norman Rokeberg

Date: April 8, 2004

Re: HB 60

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norman Rokeberg".

Please schedule a House State Affairs Committee Meeting for HB 60. I have attached the requisite information, including:

- 1) Current version of the bill
- 2) Sponsor Statement
- 3) Sectional Analysis
- 4) Supporting Information

Contact my office if you have any questions. Thank you.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

House of Representatives

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Sponsor Statement

HB 60

HB 60 is the vehicle by which the Alaska State Legislature will move to a legislative hall that is befitting for a Legislature in the 21st century. Alaska's legislative hall should symbolize the spirit and meaning of Alaska. Alaskans should take pride in a building that reflects our diversity, unity, history, and vision of the future.

Specifically, HB 60 allows boroughs or unified municipalities with at least 30,000 residents to make bids to build a new Capitol Building in their community. The boroughs or unified municipalities able to make the bid would include Juneau, Matanuska-Susitna, Fairbanks, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Kenai Peninsula Borough, and Anchorage.

The current Capitol Building was built in 1931. Alaska was still a territory, governed by the 10th Territorial Legislature, which was comprised of a total of 24 legislators. The issues facing the great State of Alaska have matured and developed since this time, and our State Legislature has grown to rise up and meet these issues. However, the building in which we work to promote Alaska's interests, where the public comes to see Alaskan history made, remains the building of 1931. Many of the problems with having an antiquated building cannot be rectified with patchwork remedies. These problems include a lack of access to disabled Alaskans (many of whom are veterans), insufficient space for our legislators and legislative committees, corridors which do not meet safety requirements, a lack of amenities to serve the public (including gallery seating and a public lounge), as well as the constant need to update obsolete electrical, heating, and communications systems.

Upon accepting the borough's or unified municipality's bid, the legislative counsel will be responsible for carrying out the terms of the proposal, and for the operation and maintenance of the building. Rent would be \$1 per year. The new building will be completed and ready for occupancy by 2008.

HB 60 will provide Alaskans with a functional, beautiful, accessible, and safe legislative hall—a distinguished symbol of our government and a structure of which Alaskans can be proud.

For these reasons, I urge you to support HB 60.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Representative Norman Rokeberg

e-mail: Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us

Sectional Analysis HB 60

Sec 1. Findings

- a. Capitol building houses the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the Legislature.
- b. Corridors were found in violation of fire codes in 1998, and we have been unable to keep them at code. In addition, modern office buildings require fire protection corridors, which our capitol building cannot support.
- c. Items of concern are, corridor length, space, access, lack of amenities, chamber space, committee space, electrical and telecommunication services, heating and ventilation.
- d. The building has outlived its usefulness.

Sec 2. a. Alaska legislative counsel shall develop specifications for the new hall that will be made available by December 15, 2003. The building must first meet all fire codes, ADA requirements. The building must correct each of the issues listed in Sec1 (c).

- (1) An office for each legislator and their staff
- (2) A chamber for each body of the legislature, with voting boards
- (3) A legislative lounge
- (4) 18 committee rooms
- (5) A suite office space for the governor and his staff
- (6) One Courtroom for the Supreme Court and staff
- (7) One photocopy room for each floor
- (8) A public lounge
- (9) Rooms for security, supply, and documents
- (10) Office space deemed appropriate by the legislature
- (11) Office space for the senate secretary and the chief clerk
- (12) A print shop
- (13) A maintenance shop
- (14) A media office
- (15) An adequate area for media
- (16) An atrium or rotunda for events
- (17) Displays for Alaska historical exhibits and artifacts
- (18) A documents room

- (19) A press room
- (20) Adequate restrooms on each floor
- b. specifications must include parking, including
 - (1) covered parking for at least 75 vehicles
 - (2) parking for at least 300 adjacent to the building
 - (3) covered walkways
 - (4) parking for an additional 150 spaces near the site

c. Total parking provided must equal or exceed the amount specified by code

Sec 3. Upon completing specifications the legislature shall solicit proposals. In deciding what proposal to accept the legislature shall consider whether the community has (1) adequate utilities (2) airport access (3) road or ferry access and (4) has adequate health, education, and social services facilities and adequate housing opportunities.

Sec 4. Contract procedures under AS 36.30.020 do not apply to this selection.

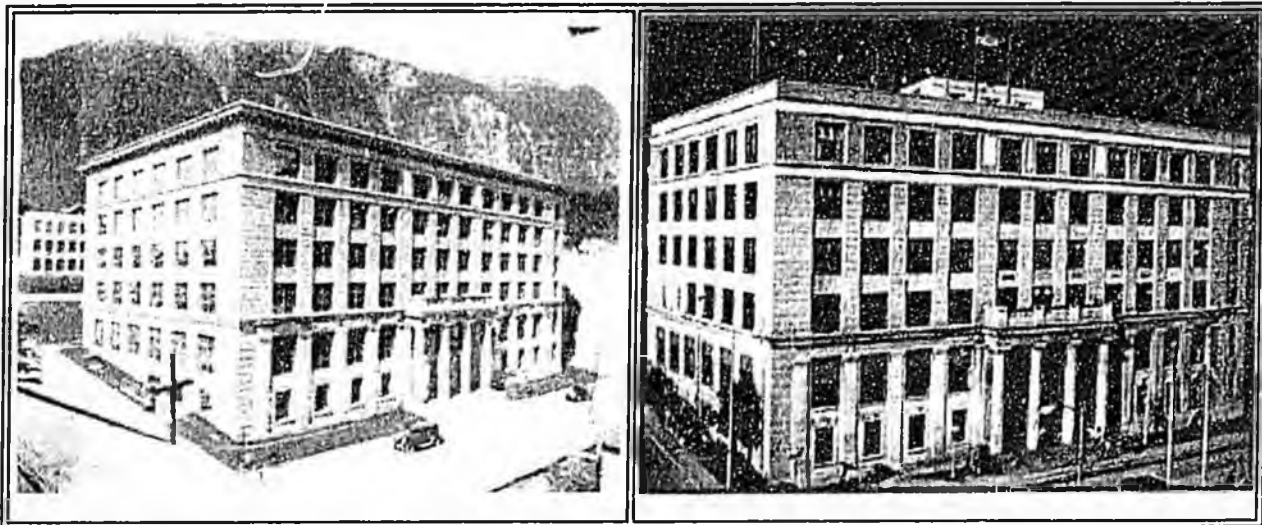
Sec 5. If a hall is constructed under this act, the legislature shall convene in this hall during the next session and every session, thereafter.



Alaska's Capitol

Welcome to Alaska's capitol! Originally completed in 1931, the building served as the territorial capitol housing the legislature, governor, the post office, courts, and numerous other federal and territorial agencies. Today our capitol contains the offices of the state legislature, governor, and lieutenant governor.

[Capitol Tour Video \(Download 45.7 MB File\)](#) Download to your desktop and play with Windows Media Player.



Congress authorized and made an initial appropriation for the building in 1911, but construction did not begin until 1929. There were many reasons for the delay, including the cessation of all public works of this type caused by World War I. One early delay was the refusal of the federal government to pay the owners' asking price for some of the lots on the site. This was overcome by local citizens and businesses who contributed money to purchase the necessary lots and deed them to the government.

Architects in the U.S. Treasury Department prepared plans for the building, and the construction contract was awarded to N.P. Severin Company of Chicago. Ground was broken by territorial governor George A. Parks on September 18, 1929. Construction is brick faced reinforced concrete. The lower facade is faced with limestone. The limestone and marble used in the four columns of the portico and in the lobby were quarried on Prince of Wales Island in southeast Alaska. In front of the building is a replica of the Liberty Bell, given to Alaska in 1950. A similar bell was given to every state as part of a promotional campaign for U.S. Savings Bonds.

Awaiting construction of the capitol, the territorial legislature, beginning with its first session in 1913, met in rented buildings around Juneau. The territorial governor was also in rented quarters when the capitol opened in 1931. When Alaska became a state in 1959,

the building became the property of the state under provisions of the Alaska Statehood Act.

In the lobby are two clay fired sculptures by Joan Bugbee Jackson. The scenes "Harvest of the Sea" and "Harvest of the Land" depict hunting and fishing in the 1930's and took approximately nine months to complete. Other carvings depict principal sources of income for the state: oil and gas, fishing and fish processing, wood products, minerals, tourism, hunting and trapping. Also on the ground floor is the documents office, which distributes bills and other official publications during the legislative session. The remainder of the ground floor consists of legislators' offices and meeting rooms, as does the first floor.

The legislative chambers have always been on the second floor, although not exactly where they are now. The original Senate chambers were in the rooms currently used as offices for the House Speaker and majority caucus. These rooms were restored in 1979. Much of the furniture is from the territorial period, and the hand stenciled ceiling dates from the time of construction.

The entire third floor is occupied by the governor and lieutenant governor. In the main hall is the "Hall of Governors" containing pictures of all territorial and state governors.

Until 1993 the fourth floor housed the Attorney General's offices. Today the entire fourth floor is used by the Legislature for offices and meeting rooms.

The Senate Finance Committee room is located on the fifth floor in what was once the federal district court room. This room has also been restored and the wooden benches are those that were used in the original court room.

Alaska's Capitol has served as the symbol and seat of government for over 60 years, and continues today to be a working Capitol.

Send questions and comments to [Webmaster](#). This page last updated 10/24/02

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June 5, 1997

MEMORANDUM

TO:

FROM: Maria Gladziszewski *MG*
Legislative Analyst/Manager

RE: **Brief History of Efforts to Move Alaska's Capital, 1960-1997**
Research Request 97.062

You asked for an overview of the capital move issue in Alaska. Below is a chronological summary of major events in the history of the issue. Attached is a table listing all the measures that have been put to voters since statehood regarding the capital move. Also attached is another history, written January 1983, with additional details on events between 1960 and 1982.

1959--Delegates to Constitutional Convention Sidestep Issue

Delegates to the constitutional convention sidestepped the contentious issue of the capital location through the compromise of Article XV, Section 20, declaring Juneau the capital of the state but placing this wording in the "transitional" article of the constitution.

1960--Voters Reject Capital Move Initiative

Initiative No. 1 on the 1960 general election ballot provided that "the capital of the state of Alaska shall be moved on or before January 1, 1965, to a location within the Cook Inlet-Rail Belt area, exact site to be selected by a committee of five appointed by the Governor. . . ."

The initiative was defeated 23,972 (56 percent) to 18,865 (44 percent).

June 5, 1997
Page 2

1962--Voters Reject Capital Move Initiative

Initiative No. 1 on the 1962 general election ballot proposed the following:

. . . the Capital of Alaska be relocated in Western Alaska, to a site not within 30 miles of Anchorage. A committee of senior senators from each senatorial district shall select not more than three locations, consisting of not less than 6,400 acres of state lands. . . . From the locations selected the site shall be chosen by plurality vote of the people. The Legislature shall immediately thereafter provide for planning and construction of necessary state facilities. Movement of the capital shall begin before June 1, 1968.

Opponents sued to block the initiative from the ballot on the grounds that the location of the capital was a constitutional matter and the constitution could not be amended by way of an initiative. The Alaska Supreme Court ruled that matters treated in Article XV were not a permanent part of the constitution and could be changed by statute; thus, they could be changed by initiative (*Starr v. Hagglund*, 374 P.2d 316, 1962).

The initiative failed by a vote of 32,325 (55 percent) to 26,542 (45 percent).

1974--Voters Adopt Capital Move Initiative

Initiative No. 1 on the 1974 primary ballot proposed to relocate the capital to a site outside a radius of 30 miles from Anchorage or Fairbanks. Three potential sites were to be nominated by a nine-person site selection committee, and the voters were to make the final selection. The contending sites were to have 100 square miles of contiguous land owned by the state or land that could be acquired by the state at no cost. The move was to commence no later than October 1, 1980.

The initiative was adopted by the voters 46,659 (57 percent) to 35,683 (43 percent).

1976--Voters Select Willow as Site of New State Capital

In accordance with the 1974 initiative, a capital site selection committee was formed. After a year of study, the committee proposed Willow, Larson Lake and Mount Yenlo as the three sites. These choices went before the voters at the 1976 general election; the Willow site was chosen by a majority vote of 53 percent.

Mount Yenlo, Larson Lake, and Willow received 16,169, 33,170, and 56,210 votes, respectively.

June 5, 1997
Page 3

1977--Legislature Creates the New Capital Site Planning Commission

In 1977, the legislature adopted a capital planning statute that created a nine-member New Capital Site Planning Commission (Ch 67, SLA 1977). The commission was directed to prepare a detailed development plan for a city of 30,000 residents, cost estimates, and a financial plan. The commission estimated the cost of moving the capital at about \$3.5 billion and recommended that \$966 million in bonds be authorized for the project through its completion in 1994.

1978--Voters Reject \$966 Bond Authorization; Adopt FRANK Initiative

At the fall general election of 1978, the voters rejected by a wide margin--88,783 (74 percent) to 31,491 (26 percent)--the \$966 bond authorization recommended by the commission. At the same election, the voters adopted by a vote of 69,414 (56 percent) to 55,253 (44 percent) Ballot Proposition No. 3, known as the FRANK initiative (spearheaded by the Fairbanks-based Frustrated, Responsible Alaskans Needing Knowledge), which provided that money could be authorized to relocate the capital only after a majority of voters casting ballots in a statewide election approved a bond proposition that identified "all bondable costs" of the capital relocation. A February 1978 opinion of the Alaska Attorney General had interpreted the phrase "all bondable costs" to include all costs associated with the move that *could* be bonded, whether or not alternative financing methods were used.

The FRANK initiative brought capital move planning to a halt for two years (the period during which the legislature may not repeal an initiative).

1981--Legislature Reconstitutes New Capital Site Planning Commission

By the terms of Chapter 54, SLA 1981 (which "repealed and reenacted" the FRANK initiative), a reconstituted capital site planning commission was charged with the task of developing plans for construction and cost estimates for all aspects of the move, including the indemnification of Juneau residents. The 1981 law provided the following:

. . . state money may be spent to relocate the state capital from its present location to the new capital site at Willow only after a majority of those voting on the proposition at the 1982 general election have approved a ballot proposition that includes the total cost to the state of providing for completion of relocation of a functional state capital . . .

The measure also provided that if the ballot proposition was rejected by a majority of the voters, then all laws relating to capital relocation would be repealed. The commission completed its work

June 5, 1997

Page 4

in August, 1982. It scaled down the cost of the project from the first commission's estimate of \$3.5 billion to a new estimate of \$2.8 billion.

1982--Voters Reject Ballot Proposition to Relocate Capital to Willow

Ballot Measure No. 8 on the 1982 general election ballot read as follows:

Considering the cost, revenue and population estimates set out below, may the State of Alaska spend the money necessary (estimated to total \$2,843,147,000) to accomplish relocation of a functional state capital from Juneau to the new capital site at Willow?

The measure was defeated 102,083 (53 percent) to 91,249 (47 percent).

1994--Voters Reject Moving the Capital to Wasilla; Adopt FRANK Initiative

At the general election of 1994, voters rejected Ballot Measure Number 3, a proposal to change the state capital to Wasilla as of January 1, 1997, by a 55 to 45 percent margin. At the same election, the voters adopted by a vote of 119,089 (64 percent) to 66,157 (36 percent) Ballot Proposition No. 5, a revival of the FRANK initiative (spearheaded by the Fairbanks-based Fiscally Responsible Alaskans Needing Knowledge), with the following provision:

State money may be expended to relocate physically the capital or the legislature from the present location only after a majority of those voting in a statewide election have approved a bond issue that includes all bondable costs to the State of the relocation of a functional state legislature or capital to the new site over a 12-year period following such approval.¹

* * * * *

I hope this information is helpful to you. If you have additional questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Attachments

¹See Alaska Statutes 44.06.050 - 44.06.060.

DATE	Question	FOR		AGAINST	
		Votes	Percentage	Votes	Percentage
9-Aug-60	<i>Ballot Initiative:</i> Relocate the State Capital	18,865	44%	23,972	56%
6-Nov-62	<i>Ballot Initiative:</i> Relocate the State Capital	26,542	45%	32,325	55%
27-Aug-74	<i>Ballot Initiative:</i> Relocate & Construct Capital	46,659	57%	35,683	43%
2-Nov-76	<i>Ballot Measure:</i> Capital Site Selection	Larson Lake: 33,170 Mount Yenlo: 16,169 Willow: 56,219			
7-Nov-78	<i>Bonding Proposition:</i> New State Capital Construction Bonds-- \$966,000,000	31,491	26%	58,783	74%
7-Nov-78	<i>Ballot Initiative:</i> Full Bondable Costs of Relocating the Capital [FRANK Initiative]	69,414	56%	55,253	44%
2-Nov-82	<i>Ballot Proposition:</i> Relocation of State Capitol	91,249	47%	102,083	53%
8-Nov-94	<i>Ballot Initiative:</i> Relating to Changing the Capital to Wasilla	96,398	45%	116,277	55%
8-Nov-94	<i>Ballot Initiative:</i> Relating to Voters Right to Know the Cost of Moving the Capital [FRANK Initiative]	119,089	64%	66,157	36%

SOURCES:

State of Alaska Official Election Pamphlets; and
Alaska Division of Elections at <http://www.gov.state.ak.us/lsgov/elections/inihist.htm>