

SB

180

SFIN

FILE

SB 180

was referred to the
Senate Finance
Committee

Hearing(s) were held

The bill did not move
from Committee

Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR

GENE THERRIAULT

Mailing Address:

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Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

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While in session

State Capitol

Juneau, Alaska

99801-1162

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Senate

Senate Bill 180: "An Act establishing the Safety Code Task Force; and providing for an effective date."

Sponsor: Senator Gene Therriault 

There are five primary safety codes dealing with construction in Alaska which are under the jurisdiction of two different Departments. The Fire, Building, and Mechanical Codes are under the jurisdiction of the Fire Marshall at the Department of Public Safety. The Plumbing and Electrical Codes are governed by the Department of Labor. Each department is responsible for adopting a family of codes to bring uniformity and consistency to the construction industry. However, the current delegation of authority to the respective departments has caused a set of conflicts and discrepancies.

The mission of the Safety Code Task Force is to suggest options for consolidation of our code administration function. The Task Force will be charged with presenting recommendations to the legislature by the first day of the Second Regular Session of the Twenty-Third Alaska State Legislature.

The Safety Code Task force will consist of 9 members representing parties affected by the adoption of Safety Codes in the state. The make up of the task force is as follows:

- Appointee of the Senate President, Co-Chair
- Appointee of the Speaker of the House, Co-Chair
- Appointee of the Governor

The following members are to be appointed jointly by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House:

- Representative of the construction design community
- Representative of the construction engineering community
- Representative for general contractors
- Representative from the mechanical construction industry
- Representative from the electrical construction industry
- Representative from the plumbing construction industry

In addition an advisory panel will be appointed by the Governor representing the Division of Occupational Licensing, the Division of Fire Prevention, and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The purpose of this group is to advise the Task Force on the effect of any changes in code adoption to their respective agencies.

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April 11, 2003

Senator Con Bunde
Chair, Senate Labor and Commerce
By FAX (907) 465-3871

Re: SB 180

Dear Senator Bunde:

It is critical that any task force set up to address the code issues facing Alaska be technically versed and familiar with the various issues. The specifics that face each engineering and construction discipline are as specific as the individual codes themselves. To assure this requires representation by the major disciplines dealing with their own code issues – not just architectural but structural, mechanical and so forth. Covering this adequately will take at least four different individuals, each from their own discipline. This is as true for design as it is for construction.

In addition, this task force should look at the inefficiencies caused by having different aspects of permitting scattered about state government. Building codes (life safety) are in Public Safety. Storm water and drainage are in DEC. Mechanical and Electrical codes are in Labor. Each takes a different view and approach to the process. The Department of Labor for instance refuses to review plans or offer code interpretations. They say in essence – “build it, and if we don't like what you build we'll cite you”. This is not conducive to orderly, planned development. In many ways it is a serious barrier.

In closing, thank you for considering such a task force. If done right, composed of technically informed and fair-minded people this could be a real help in resolving these issues.

Sincerely,

Jonathan P. Kumin
President, Kumin Associates, Inc.

Cc: Senator Gene Therriault, sponsor
FAX 465-3884



Alaska Professional Design Council • PO Box 100515 • Anchorage AK 99501-0515

12 April 2003

MEMBER
SOCIETIES

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Professional
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neering Marketing
Association of
Alaska

Professional
Engineers in
Private Practice
Alaska Chapter

American Society
of Interior
Designers

Senator Gene Therriault
State Capitol, Room 107
Juneau Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Therriault:

The Alaska Professional Design Council would like to thank you for introducing Senate Bill 180 establishing a task force to review the issue of safety code adoption in Alaska. Building safety is of paramount importance to all Alaskans and of particular interest to APDC. We provide these comments in an effort to ensure a balanced and efficient task force that will be able to review and provide the Legislature with positive, succinct recommendations in a very short time frame.


Our recommendations encompass two sections of the proposed legislation; taskforce membership [Section 1 (a)], and scope of work [Section 1 (b)].

First, regarding taskforce membership – there are several organizations that have statewide membership and members with a working knowledge of the safety codes from a design, ownership and enforcement perspective. Those organizations include the APDC, American Institute of Architects (AIA), American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Alaska State Homebuilders Association, Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA), and municipal building officials. Each of these constituencies bring a unique perspective to the discussion, and should be included in the taskforce as voting members. At a minimum, voting members should include one mechanical engineer, one structural engineer, one architectural or building professional, one representative from the building owners group, and one building official. APDC would also like to note that the electrical code is the same for both competing sets of code and therefore suggest that the Electrical Contractor position on the taskforce is not required.

Regarding the taskforce scope – APDC appreciates the desire to keep the scope of the task force limited to just selection of a set of safety codes, but respectfully suggests that the role of the taskforce should be focused on identifying a fair and equitable process by which codes should be adopted in Alaska. Our concern is that if one code is selected through a political process this time around, the likelihood of a political showdown occurring every three years is very high. APDC also suggests that the taskforce provide recommendations on consolidation of code oversight. There are currently several State Departments and Divisions responsible for adoption and implementation of various components of the safety codes. Putting one Department in charge of the code selection process that involves the other State Agencies as well as the impacted constituencies, will result in selection of a set of Safety Codes that provide the maximum safety benefit to all Alaskans.

APDC appreciates your interest in building safety and we look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,


Sam Kito III, PE
Chair, Legislative Liaison Committee
(907) 723-4686
skito@eci.net

cc: Senator Con Bunde, Chair Senate Labor & Commerce Committee
Lt Gov. Loren Leman

www.apdc-ak.org



CITY OF FAIRBANKS
Steve M. Thompson, Mayor

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OFFICE: 907-459-6793
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smthompson@ci.fairbanks.ak.us

Attn: Senator Gary Wilken

FAXED
04/24/03

April 24, 2003

VIA FACSIMILE: (907) 465-3871

Senator Con Bunde
Chairman Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capital Room 506
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Re: SB 180 Safety Code Task Force

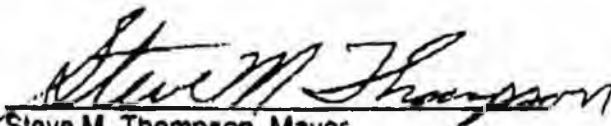
Dear Senator Bunde:

The City of Fairbanks has reviewed Senate Bill 180 wherein the purpose of said bill is to establish a task force for the purpose of reviewing and reevaluating available published safety codes. While we concur with the spirit and purpose of the Senate Bill, we respectfully disagree with its composition. More accurately we believe that municipal participation should be included on the task force. A representative from a full service building or fire department should be a standing member of the task force. If the task force is to reach an equitable solution and provide a meaningful recommendation to the legislature it is essential that personnel who provide daily plan review and inspections for municipal code compliance be provided an opportunity to engage in this important decision. To do otherwise, would exclude valuable expertise and insight.

We also request that any appointment to the task force not result in duplicate representation. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you and the committee.

Sincerely,

CITY OF FAIRBANKS


Steve M. Thompson, Mayor

CC: City Council
Interior Delegation
Steve Shuttleworth
Code Review commission
File

**SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT
First Committee of Referral**

DATE: 4/8/03

FURTHER: Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: 4/10/03
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 4/25/03

Labor and Commerce Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 180

SB 180 SAFETY CODE TASK FORCE

"An Act establishing the Safety Code Task Force; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends:

- be replaced with _____ CS SB 180 (L&C)
- 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#
LAA	4/24/03	✓		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
Davis <i>B. Davis</i>			✓	
French <i>[Signature]</i>			X	
Seekins <i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
G. Stevens <i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
CHAIR: <i>Bunde</i>	✓			

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SIGN-IN

SB 180-SAFETY CODE TASK FORCE

NAME: Sam Kito III Subject/Bill No: SB180
Co./Dept./Title: AK Prof. Design Council Phone: 723 6486
Address: 120 Box 21192 Zip: 99801
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

NAME: Gary Powell Subject/Bill No: SB180
Co./Dept./Title: State Fire Marshal Phone: 269-5491
Address: 5700 E. Tudor Zip: 99507
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____
Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Zip: _____
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____
Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Zip: _____
Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

