

SCR

8



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs

committee name

Committee on SB 167 & SCR 8 / Introduction of measures
bill # / subject

Date, January 20, 2004

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 167 and SCR 8.

I would like to begin my testimony by referring to Alaska State Statute Sec. 44.62.312, the state policy regarding meetings.

(a) It is the policy of the state that

(1) the governmental units mentioned in AS 44.62.310 (a) exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business;

(2) it is the intent of the law that actions of those units be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly;

(3) the people of this state do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies that serve them;

(4) the people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know;

(5) the people's right to remain informed shall be protected so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created."

These words were true when written and still applicable today. How do these words apply to the legislature? It should mean that **ALL** actions taken by the legislature and governor be open, honest and transparent.

The procedure of introducing legislation "by committee" is **not** being open, honest or transparent. It has been used many times in the past as a method for introducing controversial legislation so people would not get their "dirty hands". While this may be a politically acceptable practice to some, it is considered an abomination to the people the legislature is sworn to serve, and clearly contrary to the state statute quoted above. There may be some legitimate reasons for introduction of legislation "by committee", but those reasons are far outweighed by the failure to comply with statutes governing meetings held by elected officials to conduct the people's business.

Please help restore faith in our political process by passing SB 167 and SCR 8 out of the Senate so the House will have time to do the same prior to session end.

Thank you.

Signed: Mike McBride

Testifier

Self

Representing (optional)

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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SENATOR GRETCHEN GUESS

Sponsor Statement **SB 167 and SCR 8**

“An Act relating to introduction of measures in the legislature; and providing for an effective date.”

“Proposing amendments to the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature relating to the introduction of measures; and providing for an effective date for the amendments.”

The purpose of these two bills is to eliminate committee bills, and allow only sixty-one people to introduce legislation: sixty legislators and the Governor. No other entity could introduce legislation.

Currently, each member or members of the legislature can introduce bills. Additionally, any committee can introduce bills with the majority of the committee members agreement. Governor's bills are introduced by the Rules Committee.

These bills would streamline the process and make the process more transparent to voters. If an idea is good enough for introduction, it should have an individual and individual's name on the bill. To voters looking in from the outside, committee bills are confusing – people do not know who is placing the idea for consideration and often all members of committee are considered co-sponsors (whether they agree with the bill or not).

Although at one time committee bills may have had a purpose in our process, I believe it is time to reevaluate the process. We should do all we can to make the legislative process clear to all Alaskans. I believe these bills provide a good first step.

I would appreciate your consideration of these bills.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
Bill Version: SCR 8
() Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Legislature
Title "Proposing amendments to the Uniform BRU Legislative Council
Rules of the Alaska Legislature relating to the....." Component: Session Expenses
Sponsor Senator Guess Legal and Research Svcs
Requestor Senate State Affairs Component No. 782

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	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2004) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2005 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Part-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation has zero fiscal impact on the Legislative Affairs Agency.

Prepared by: Karla Schofield, Deputy Director
Division: Administrative Services
Approved by: Pamela Varni, Executive Director
Agency: Legislative Affairs Agency

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Date/Time 1/19/04 8:14 AM
Date 1/19/2004