

HB

395

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

REPRESENTATIVE KURT OLSON

- Co-Chair, Community and Regional Affairs
- Member, Resources

Session: January - May
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: 907-465-2693
Fax: 907-465-3835



Interim: May - December
145 Main Street Loop, Ste 221
Kenai, AK 99611
Phone: 907-283-2690
Fax 907-283-2763

Official Business

TO: Senator Thomas Wagoner - Chair
Senate Resources Committee

FROM: Representative Kurt Olson

DATE: April 10, 2006

RE: Hearing on CSHB 395 (FIN) (am)

I respectfully request a hearing in the Senate Resources Committee on HB 395, An Act relating to the period of the fire season, at your earliest convenience.

Attached please find a copy of the bill, sponsor statement, and zero fiscal note. Additionally please find letters of support and 3 maps.

If you need any further information, please contact my staff Konrad Jackson at ext. 2693.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

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SPONSOR STATEMENT

CSHB 395 (FIN) am FIRE SEASON START DATE

The spruce bark beetle kill on the Kenai Peninsula has created an enormous amount of dry grass and dead trees susceptible to lightning strikes and man made fires. The threat grows greater every year.

For the past several years the climate in our area has been gradually warming earlier in the year, leaving wild areas dry and increasing the probability of a major wildfire early in or even before the start of the current fire season.

The largest uncontained fire on the Southern Kenai Peninsula ever recorded, the Tracy Avenue fire, started prior to May 1, 2005, threatening residents and property. This fire might have been contained had the equipment and personnel been available the first day.

The threat of early season fires is a statewide issue. These pre-green up fires are a very real threat in the Mat-Su Valley, the Anchorage bowi and the Fairbanks area. Since many of these fires are man made, they tend to be near populated areas thus increasing the risk to life and property.

Moving the fire season start date to April 1 will allow the state to become actively involved in fire prevention and control earlier in the fire season and hopefully stop the progress of a disastrous pre-summer fire.

The bill was amended to change the fire season end date to August 31 to allow for a zero fiscal note and to include an immediate effective date.

I respectfully ask for your support of this bill.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: HB 395
 (H) Publish Date: 2/8/06

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Natural Resources
 Title An Act Extending the Period of the Fire Season RDU Statewide Fire Suppression Program
 Component Fire Suppression Preparedness
 Sponsor OLSON, Hawker, Seaton
 Requester (H) RES Component No. 2705

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services	514.5	514.5	514.5	514.5	514.5	514.5
Travel						
Contractual	395.6	395.6	431.5	431.5	431.5	431.5
Supplies	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	922.1	922.1	958.0	958.0	958.0	958.0

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

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	922.1	922.1	958.0	958.0	958.0	958.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	922.1	922.1	958.0	958.0	958.0	958.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Fires are occurring in greater numbers and with a greater risk to life and property earlier in the year than they have historically. The Tracy Avenue Fire, which started in April 2005 and threatened the community of Homer, was the earliest large, complex fire in the State's history. The Division of Forestry is not currently staffed nor equipped to adequately respond to fires that occur this early. This legislation would change the start of the designated fire season and, if funded, would provide the Division of Forestry with the ability to adequately respond to these early fires threatening communities and the ability to regulate open burning through issuance of burn permits.

Prepared by: Chris Maisch, Director Phone (907) 356-5850
 Division: Forestry Date/Time 2/3/2006
 Approved by: Michael Menge, Commissioner Date 2/3/2006
 Agency: Natural Resources

FISCAL NOTE #1

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 395 _____

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

This bill provides for a one month earlier fire season. This will require extensions to permanent seasonal fire staff and extensions to helicopter and air tanker contracts.

Personal Services \$514.5

This provides an extension to permanent seasonal firefighters, prevention staff, and fire support staff which allows for fire response and fire prevention during the earlier fire season.

Contractual Services \$395.6

This provides for contract extensions for helicopters and an air tanker to cover the earlier fire season plus additional normal operating costs (utilities, lease space, phones, etc.) associated with a longer fire season. Higher contractual costs starting in FY 2009 are based on expected changes in the renegotiations to the next 5 year air tanker contract.

Supplies \$12.0

Routine operating supplies associated with a longer fire season.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
 Bill Version: CSHB 395(FIN)
 (H) Publish Date: 3/6/20

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Natural Resources
 Title An Act Extending the Period of the Fire Season RDU Statewide Fire Suppression
 Component Fire Suppression Program
 Sponsor Olson
 Requester HFC Component No. 2705

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
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 (FY2006) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: House Finance Committee

Phone 465-4945/465-3779

Rep. Kevin Meyer, Co-Chair

Date 3/2/2006

Rep. Mike Chenault, Co-Chair



Fairbanks North Star Borough

Office of the Mayor

809 Pioneer Road

P.O. Box 71267

Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267

907/459-1300

Fax 907/459-1102

Email mayor@co.fairbanks.ak.us

February 12, 2006

Via Facsimile 907-465-2833

Co-Chair Mike Chenault &
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska

Via Facsimile 907-465-3476

Co-Chair Kevin Meyer
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska

Subject: Letter In Support of HB 395: Fire Season Start Date

Dear Messrs. Co-Chairman Chenault & Meyer:

I am writing today in support of HB 395: Fire Season Start Date.

Recent fire seasons in Interior Alaska have made no small secret of the dangers faced within the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Most memorable to us all should be the 2004 Boundary Fire.

Changing the start of fire season from May 1st to April 1st is both necessary and appropriate. The Fairbanks North Star Borough's typical fire danger begins in early to mid May. However, supplies, crews, and other resources may not yet be in place to react to our needs without this legislation. Allowing our commissioner to screen crews and order supplies will prepare a necessary pool of resources for our area to draw upon at a critical juncture saving valuable time and resources during an incident.

The fiscal note attached to this legislation is minimal, and appears unable to incorporate the savings that will undoubtedly occur due to expedited response to incidence. I anticipate that adoption of this legislation would also produce a savings to the department as fires are contained before requiring additional crews and equipment, and a reduction in campaign fires is realized.

Please support this legislation with a recommendation of Do Pass.

Thank you.

Jim Whitaker, Mayor

cc: Representative Richard Foster
Representative Jim Holm
Representative Bruce Weyhrauch
Representative Reggie Joule

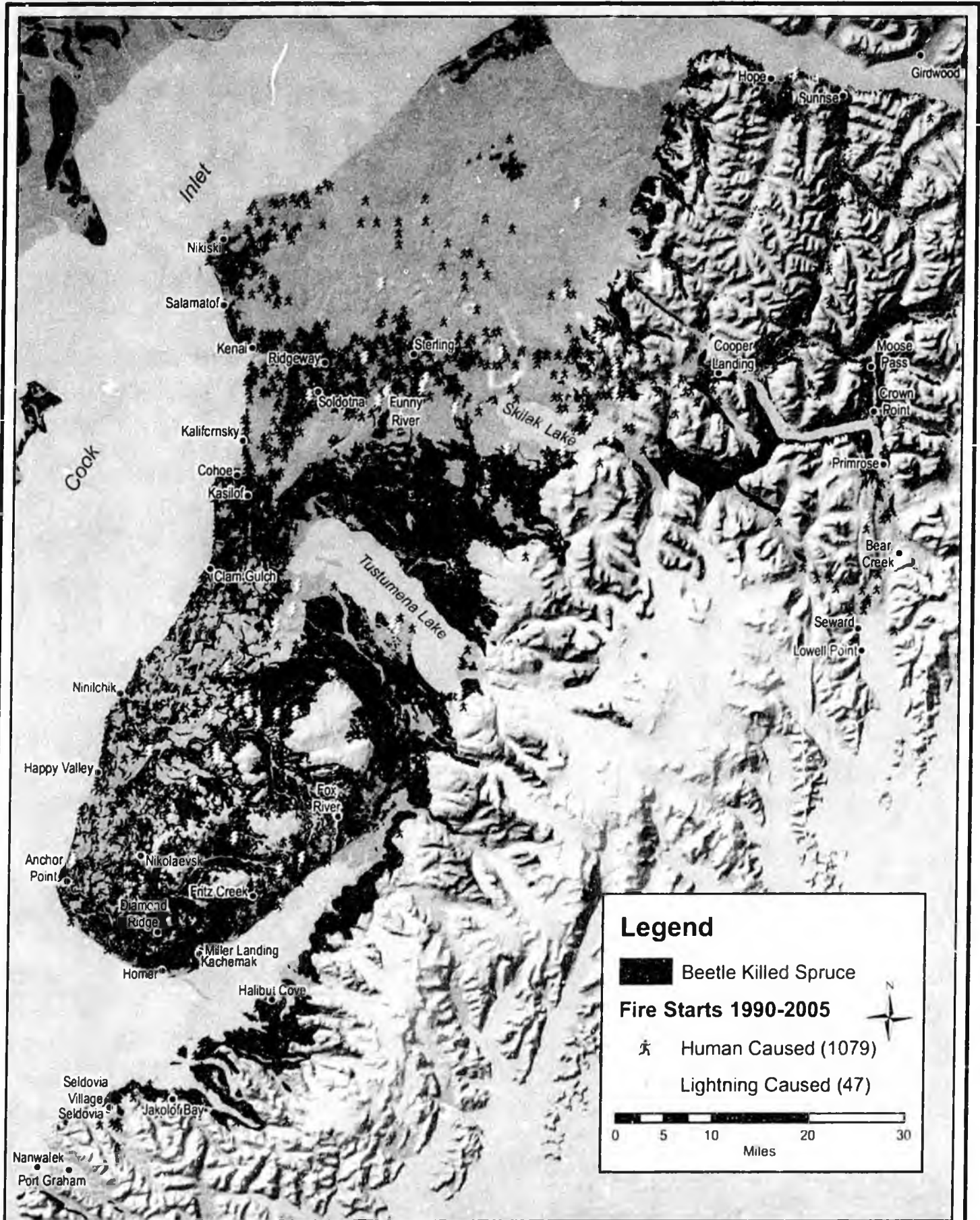
Representative Mike Hawker
Representative Mike Kelly
Representative Beth Kerttula
Representative Carl Moses

JW:jy/csm

Memorandum**To:** Representative Kurt Olson**From:** Dennis Steffy **Date:** 17 February 2006**Subject:** Bringing forward the fire date

Kurt, I strongly support bringing the date of the fire season forward as described in the Clarion recently. My property was totally burned off in the Gas Well Fire in the early spring of 1969 and is just now beginning to lose the aspects of a desert. I have property on the east side of Kachemak Bay and am suitably terrified that the Kachemak Bay State Park's standing and beetle kill adjoining my property will go someday and take us along with it.

I believe this bill is a good and necessary response to the changing conditions of our spring weather.



Kenai Peninsula Fire Starts

Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB), Spruce Bark Beetle Management Program (SBBMP)
 Fire start locations represent number of fire start events and are not intended to represent precise locations of fire starts. Source: State of Alaska Division of Forestry
 © 1990 or SBBMP as not represented by areas. Coordinates or distances on this map. Discrepancies in the data or boundary agreements are due to use of data from different sources.
 This map is not a legal representation. It is intended for general information and is not to be used for any other purpose.
 Map Project: CCM/LE/TV, M. B. Miller, State of ALASKA, FIRE STARTS map
 by Bobbi Jo Lay & Mary Hulse

August 1, 2005



Senate Resources

April 28, 2006

HB 395 Sponsor Packet

Cover Sheet _____	1 page
Sponsor Statement _____	1 page
CS HB 395(FIN) (\Y version) _____	1 page
#1 Fiscal Note: DNR 2/3/06 _____	2 pages
#2 Fiscal Note: House Finance Committee _____	1 page
Letter of Support – Fairbanks North Star Borough _____	1 page
Memo of Support – MAPTS Soldotna _____	1 page
 Total Pages: _____	 8 pages

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

REPRESENTATIVE KURT OLSON

- Co-Chair, Community and Regional Affairs
- Member, Resources

Session: January - May
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: 907-465-2693
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The largest uncontained fire on the Southern Kenai Peninsula ever recorded, the Tracy Avenue fire, started prior to May 1, 2005, threatening residents and property. This fire might have been contained had the equipment and personnel been available the first day.

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Moving the fire season start date to April 1 will allow the state to become actively involved in fire prevention and control earlier in the fire season and hopefully stop the progress of a disastrous pre-summer fire.

The bill was amended to change the fire season end date to August 31 to allow for a zero fiscal note and to include an immediate effective date.

I respectfully ask for your support of this bill.

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 395(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/6/06

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES OLSON, Hawker, Seaton, Dahlstrom, LeDoux, Gruenberg, Foster, Kerttula, Guttenberg, Lynn

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the period of the fire season; and providing for an effective date."**

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

3 *** Section 1. AS 41.15.050 is amended to read:**

4 **Sec. 41.15.050. Fire season.** The period from April [MAY] 1 to August 31
5 [SEPTEMBER 30], inclusive, of each year is designated the fire season. The
6 commissioner may designate other periods as fire season. The commissioner may
7 proclaim an additional period for all or any portion of the state when weather or other
8 conditions require action for the protection of forested land. The commissioner may
9 also, during the fire season, prohibit, or allow only by permit, the setting of fires,
10 smoking, entry, or other use on the land, when, in the judgment of the commissioner,
11 the activities would unduly increase the fire danger.

12 *** Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).**

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: HB 395
(H) Publish Date: 2/8/06

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Natural Resources
Title: An Act Extending the Period of the Fire Season RDU: Statewide Fire Suppression Program
Component: Fire Suppression Preparedness
Sponsor: OLSON, Hawker, Seaton
Requester: (H) RES Component No.: 2705

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ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)
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Prepared by: Chris Maisch, Director Phone: (907) 356-5850
Division: Forestry Date/Time: 2/3/2006
Approved by: Michael Menge, Commissioner Date: 2/3/2006
Agency: Natural Resources

FISCAL NOTE #1

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 395

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 Component: Fire Suppression Program
 Sponsor: Olson
 Requester: HFC Component No.: 2705

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CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()

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Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: House Finance Committee

Phone 465-4945/465-3779

Rep. Kevin Moyer, Co-Chair

Date 3/2/2006

Rep. Mike Chenault, Co-Chair



Fairbanks North Star Borough

Office of the Mayor

809 Pioneer Road

P.O. Box 71267

Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267

907/459-1300

Fax 907/459-1102

Email mayor@co.fairbanks.ak.us

February 12, 2006

Via Facsimile 907-465-2833

Via Facsimile 907-465-3476

Co-Chair Mike Chenault
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska

&
Co-Chair Kevin Meyer
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska

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Please support this legislation with a recommendation of Do Pass.

Thank you.

Jim Whitaker, Mayor

cc: Representative Richard Foster
Representative Jim Holm
Representative Bruce Weyhrauch
Representative Reggie Joule

Representative Mike Hawker
Representative Mike Kelly
Representative Beth Kertula
Representative Carl Moses

JW:jy/csm

Memorandum

To: Representative Kurt Olson

From: Dennis Steffy 

Date: 17 February 2006

Subject: Bringing forward the fire date

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