

SB

224

SESSION ADDRESS:
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-4925
Fax: (907) 465-3517
Toll Free: 1-800-821-4925

Senator Gary Stevens
Alaska State Legislature

INTERIM ADDRESS:
112 Mill Bay Road
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
(907) 486-4925
Fax: (907) 486-5264

Memo

To: Senator Gene Therriault, Chair, Senate State Affairs

From: Senator Gary Stevens 

Date: 1/31/2006

Re: SB 224

I respectfully request a State Affairs Committee hearing on SB 224, An Act establishing Older Alaskans' Day at your earliest possible convenience.

Thank you for consideration of this request.

Senator Gary Stevens

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Sponsor Statement SB 224
An Act establishing Older Alaskans' Day
(Updated February 1, 2006)

Alaska's seniors are one of the nation's fastest growing senior populations, comprising 20% of the state's population. Each year, Alaskans 60 years of age and older contribute millions of dollars to Alaska's economy. Through their involvement with various organizations, service clubs and the like, they also provide thousands of hours of volunteer work through various organizations for the betterment of their communities and state. Given the numerous and important contributions Alaska's Seniors make to our state, it is a fitting honor that a day be set aside to recognize these accomplishments.

If passed into law, SB 224 will designate the second Wednesday of September as "Older Alaskans' Day". Older Alaskans' Day will be an appropriate addition to National Senior Center Week celebrations, which fall during the second full week of September starting in 2007, and will be close to Grandparents' Day. I ask for your support of this legislation.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Alaska Commission on Aging

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI
GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 110693

JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0693

PHONE: (907) 465-3250

FAX: (907) 465-1398

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 1, 2006

TO: Senator Gene Therriault, Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee

FROM: Linda Gohl
Executive Director
Alaska Commission on Aging

SUBJ: SB 224 – Older Alaskans' Day

The Alaska Commission on Aging wholeheartedly supports the adoption of Senate Bill 224, which would establish an Older Alaskans' Day to be celebrated annually on the second Wednesday of September.

Alaskans age 60 and older form the backbone of our state. Seniors contribute to Alaska's economy and to their communities' well-being as they offer their wisdom and experience as employees, mentors, community volunteers, and family caregivers. Most importantly, they serve to remind all our citizens of the remarkable spirit of those who helped build Alaska.

The Alaska Commission on Aging endorses the timing of this celebration in early September. We note that Older Alaskans' Day, as designated by SB 224, would take place during National Senior Center Week (which is moving to September in 2007), and close to Grandparents' Day.

We would do well to set aside a special day of honor each year to bring attention to the lives of older Alaskans and the contributions they have made and continue to make to our great state.

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If passed into law, SB 224 will designate the second Wednesday of September as "Older Alaskans' Day". Older Alaskans' Day will be an appropriate addition to Senior Week celebrations, which fall during the second full week of September. I ask for your support of this legislation.

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

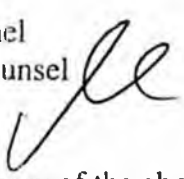
MEMORANDUM

January 10, 2006

SUBJECT: Older Alaskans' Day (SB 224 (Work Order No. 24-LS1445A))

TO: Senator Gary Stevens
Attn: Doug Letch

FROM: Jean M. Mischel
Legislative Counsel



You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

Section 1. Establishes the second Wednesday of September of each year as Older Alaskans' Day.

JMM:med
06-015.med

DATE: December 3, 2001 NO: 01-91

CONTACT: Cristina Klein PHONE: (907) 269-3668

Department of Labor and Workforce Development
News Release
ALASKANS 60 AND OLDER AMONG FASTEST GROWING
POPULATION GROUP IN THE NATION
December Alaska Economic Trends Focuses on Alaska's Seniors

Alaskans over the age of 60 are expected to more than triple in number from 53,000 in 2000 to 165,000, or 20 percent of the population, in 2025, according to the December issue of Alaska Economic Trends which is now available.

In its lead article, the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development publication looks at preliminary information on seniors from the 2000 U.S. Census and touches on issues such as medical costs and housing that affect seniors as they age. With advances in medicine seniors are living longer, contributing to the rising cost of living.

Some highlights of the article by Cristina Klein, deputy director of the Division of Senior Services for the Alaska Department of Administration, are:

- Of more than 800 seniors age 60 and over surveyed in 1999, nine out of ten expected to remain in Alaska. Primary reasons for leaving were better climate, proximity to relatives, and lower cost of living.
- Alaskans over age 60 generate an estimated \$1.2 billion in income and government medical benefits annually.
- Seventy-two percent of all survey respondents have health insurance other than Medicare and about 25% of this percentage have long-term care coverage.
- Urban seniors (77%) were more likely than rural seniors (55%) to have health insurance other than Medicare.
- In Alaska, 93 percent of people age 65 and over pay for their retirement in part with social security.
- Seniors are likely to own their own homes and have few debts; however, as seniors age, they are likely to spend down savings and assets to cover medical bills and specialized housing.

Research also shows that senior women outnumber senior men, especially in Alaska, that more seniors are poor, and that more of the poor are women. Women may live longer than men, but fare poorly when it comes to income.

According to the U.S. Census 2000, 14 percent of seniors age 65 and over fell below the poverty line. Of seniors age 65 and below the poverty line, women made up 54 percent. The difference in poverty status increases with age between men and women.

The December Alaska Economic Trends also takes a look at how the September 11 terrorists attacks have shaken up the national economy and what effects, if any, have been felt in Alaska.

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February 3, 2006

The Honorable Gene Therriault, Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee
Alaska Capitol, Room 119
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

SB 224 (G. Stevens)—Support

Dear Chair Therriault:

On behalf of the members of AARP in Alaska, we urge you and your colleagues on the Senate State Affairs Committee to support Majority Leader Gary Stevens bill SB 224 which would establish Older Alaskans Day.

As you are well aware, many older Alaskans truly were pioneers, settling in territorial Alaska and then remaining here to build our State. Recognition of their efforts by establishing an Older Alaskans Day is a nice tribute to the time and talent they have given and continue to give to Alaska.

AARP recommends an "AYE" vote on SB 224.

Should you have any questions about our position, please feel free to contact me (586-3637) or Patrick Luby, AARP Advocacy Director (907-762-3314).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie Darlin".

Marie Darlin, Coordinator
AARP Capital City Task Force
415 Willoughby Avenue, Apt. 506
Juneau, AK 99801
586-3637 (voice)
463-3580 (fax)

CC: Vice-Chair Tom Wagoner
Senator Charlie Huggins
Senator Bettye Davis

Senator Kim Elton
Majority Leader Gary Stevens

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: SB 224
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: All
 Title Older Alaskans' Day RDU _____
 Component _____
 Sponsor Sen. Gary Stevens Component No. _____
 Requester Senate State Affairs Committee

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 | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| CHANGE IN REVENUES () | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

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
 Mark 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)

This legislation would not have a significant fiscal impact on any state agency.

Prepared by: Jack Kreinheder, Senior Analyst Phone 465-4676
 Division Office of Management and Budget Date/Time 2/1/06 1:22 PM
 Approved by: Cheryl Frasca, Director Date 2/1/2006
 Agency Office of Management and Budget