

HB

216



Alaska State Legislature

Mike Doogan

Representative
District 25, Anchorage

MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Bob Lynn, Chair
House State Affairs Committee

From: Representative Mike Doogan

Date: March 26, 2007

Re: Hearing Request for HB 216: Approp: Opinion Poll Same Sex Benefits

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "MD", written over the "From:" line.

4-4-07
Catherine Moss (page)
picked up yellow
folder. Said Doogan
pulled Bill on the
house floor.

I respectfully request that House Bill 216, an act making a special appropriation for a public opinion poll regarding a constitutional amendment concerning benefits for same-sex partners, be scheduled for a hearing in the House State Affairs Committee.

Attached, you will find a packet for HB 216, including the current version of the bill, a sponsor statement, and a sectional analysis.

Please feel free to contact me, or my aide Ryan Jager, with questions or thoughts at 465-4998.



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SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 216: "An Act making a special appropriation for a public opinion poll regarding a constitutional amendment concerning benefits for same sex partners."

There's an old saying in the legislature: A million here and a million there and pretty soon you're talking about real money. The cost of the special advisory election on same-sex partner benefits is estimated to be \$1.2 million, an amount worth talking about.

What do we get for that \$1.2 million? The election is advisory and the result is non-binding, so you get an unscientific opinion poll. If the legislature's interest is in gauging public opinion on the question, we'd be far better off hiring a pollster and conducting a scientific poll. One pollster estimates such a poll would cost \$12,000, or one per cent of the amount the election will cost.

In the face of two competing means of obtaining public opinion, one that costs just \$12,000, and one that costs one thousand times as much, perhaps it's time we had a discussion about spending State General Funds a little more prudently.

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SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

HB 216: "An Act making a special appropriation for a public opinion poll regarding a constitutional amendment concerning benefits for same sex partners."

Section 1: Appropriates \$12,000 to the Office of the Governor for a statewide public opinion poll asking if a constitutional amendment regarding state benefits to same-sex partners should be enacted.

Section 2: Provides for an immediate effective date.

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