

HB

259



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Anna Fairclough – House District 17

Sponsor Statement for HB 259

“An Act establishing the first week of every March as Alaska History Week.”

While relatively short compared to other states around the nation, the history of Alaska is one filled with exploration, adventure, and cultural diversity. We are a state rich with courageous citizens, a unique climate and vast resources.

Alaska History Week will give schools, teachers and students the opportunity to celebrate our State through various activities and events. There is no fiscal note attached to this legislation, yet it will bring a focus to the history of our state one week each year and allow students of all ages to delve deeper into the roots of Alaska's past.

The idea for this legislation was brought to me by the Board of Directors of the National History Day in Alaska. This organization works to encourage the study of our state's history by holding an annual contest and sending students each year to the national competition. This legislation will help spread awareness of this program and recognition for the Alaska students who participate in it and in Alaska History Week events around the state.

I urge you to join me in supporting HB 259.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HB 259
 () Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): HB 259 Dept. Affected: _____
 Title: Establishing Alaska History Week RDU _____
 Component _____
 Sponsor: Representative Fairclough
 Requester: House State Affairs Committee Component Number _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
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	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 Interagency Receipts								
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Nancy Manly, Committee Aide Phone 465-2794
 Division: House State Affairs Committee Date/Time: 2/11/08 12:00 AM
 Approved by: Representative Bob Lynn Date: 2/11/2008
 Char: _____

Dear Hon. Representatives Fairclough, Dahlstrom, Lynn, and Gardner

Establishing Alaska History Week, HB 259, is an important piece of legislation to the staff and Board of Directors of the National History Day in Alaska (NHDA) organization, to at least seven school districts throughout the state working in partnership with our organization to reform the teaching of history in the school systems of Alaska, and to the children in Middle and High Schools, as well as those being home schooled throughout the state. You introduced HB259 last year during the legislative session, and it is now in the State Affairs committee. We all would like to see completion of consideration and the passage of this legislation.

To remind you, we are not asking for State funding with this legislation, only for the formal recognition of this program that may potentially sway corporate contributors to come forward and assist us monetarily. In 1982, a single student from Alaska attended the national competition. In 2007, over 30 students, their parents, teachers, chaperones and coordinators, made visible the quality of education in Alaska. This program has steadily grown and has changed the lives of many of the students who have taken part, as well as advanced the study of our historical roots immeasurably. We would like the Alaska State Legislature to recognize these efforts and successes and to enjoy the future of the youths that represent us throughout the state.

Judging for the State History Day contest will take place March 17th-26th this year at the National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office in Anchorage. I represent the Board of Directors of National History Day in Alaska, inviting you to be a judge at this year's contest to see what we do and how we determine the best of the best amongst the submissions we receive annually. Projects will include performances, documentaries, exhibits, and websites researched and developed by students in grades 6-12 from across Alaska. Judging will take place Monday through Friday, 8:30am-12:30pm and 1:00pm-5:00pm. I realize that you have an extremely busy schedule at this time of the year and we appreciate the efforts of all our State Leaders. However, If you are interested and available to judge on any of these dates and times it would be an honor to have you. Please let our State Coordinator, Darrell Lewis, know at your earliest convenience if you would like to be a judge. He can be reached at (907) 644-3470, or (907) 230-1623.

Thank You for all you do,

Ray DeTerra, Member, NHDA Board of Directors
(907) 317-1302



Anchorage School District

5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd
Anchorage, Alaska 99504-3135
(907) 742-4009

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Carol Comeau

February 4, 2008

The Honorable Anna Fairclough
State Capitol
Room 411
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Attn: Renee Limoge

Dear Representative Fairclough:

The Anchorage School District supports HB 259, An Act establishing the first week of every March as Alaska History Week. We understand that this is an opportunity to celebrate the contributions and experiences that comprise the past development of Alaska, and many current events taking place today. We must continue to educate our young people and our citizens on the important issues of the day regarding our great State.

It is my understanding that this bill comes at the request of our local and state social studies educators as another opportunity to celebrate the uniqueness of our people and our State. Our district will celebrate this week, and other important events in Alaska's history, with assemblies, discussions and forums, and other public events.

Sincerely yours,

Carol Comeau
Superintendent

Southcentral
Foundation



January 24, 2008

The Honorable Anna Fairclough
State Capitol, Room 411
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Fairclough:

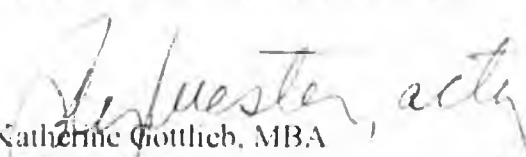
Southcentral Foundation strongly supports the proposed legislation in favor of designating the first week of every March as Alaska History Week (HB 259).

As part of our vision of a Native Community that enjoys physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellness, our organization offers a variety of Alaska Native and American Indian youth-serving programs with an education component: Head Start and Early Head Start programs, serving children 6 weeks to 5 years of age; an internship training program, serving adolescents and young adults 14 to 25 years of age; and a residential and teaching facility, serving young men 13 to 18 years of age.

The designation of Alaska History Week will present a multitude of opportunities for participants in these programs, through special observance events and exercises, to learn more about Alaska Native cultures, as well as the adventurous spirit that brought others to the state. If this bill passes, Southcentral Foundation could incorporate Alaska History Week into curriculum, distribute informational materials, and feature observance-related stories, photographs and articles in the Anchorage Native News (Southcentral Foundation's external newsletter, which maintains a readership of 10,000 people every other month) and the Communicator (SCF's internal newsletter, which maintains a readership of 1,300 readers every other week). The opportunities to learn about Alaska's culture and history are countless and invaluable, and what more appropriate time to observe its significance than now, as we approach the 50th Anniversary as a state in this great nation.

Southcentral Foundation supports your vision of an observance week to celebrate the contributions and experiences that comprise Alaska's rich history. It is our sincere hope that the State of Alaska enacts this legislation.

Sincerely,
SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION


Katherine Gottlieb, MBA
President/CEO



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Anna Fairclough – House District 17

MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Bob Lynn, Chair
House State Affairs Committee

From: Representative Anna Fairclough 

Re: HB 259

Date: February 6, 2008

Dear Representative Lynn,

I respectfully request a hearing in House State Affairs on HB 259, legislation to make the first week of every March Alaska History Week.

For your information I have attached a sponsor statement and a copy of the bill, as well as letters of support for this legislation.

If you need anything further, please contact my staff member, Renee Limoge, at 465-3777.

Thank you in advance for your time.

HB 259

Talking points for National History Day

House State Affairs Committee – February 12, 2008

- The National History Day program is the largest history education program in the Nation with more than 700,000 students and 40,000 teachers participating annually. **In Alaska approximately 3,000 students and 50 teachers participate each year.**
- By designating the first week in March as Alaska History Week, we are hoping to bring recognition to National History Day in Alaska – an organization that encourages our young people to delve into the history of this great state.
- National History Day in Alaska is not requesting any funding – our favorite kind of program – but simply the designation of the first week of March in order to give focus to their work.
- **The National History Day program consists of three levels of competition with local contest being held in February, the State Contest in early March, and the National Contest in June.** Students research topics related to a theme and produce projects to display their findings. Projects include research papers, documentaries, exhibits, performances, or web sites.
- Each year in June more than 2,500 students from across the nation travel to the University of Maryland in College Park to participate in the National History Day contest. **Since 1990, over 200 Alaska students have participated in the National History Day contest.**
- **In 2007, 31 Alaska students from Anchorage, Haines, Copper Center, North Pole, Fairbanks, and Eagle River participated. In addition to students from these communities the 2008 state contest will include students from Barrow, Wasilla, Sitka, and numerous home school students from across the state.**
- In 2007, History Day in Alaska provided teacher trainings at five workshops attended by approximately 75 teachers from across the state.
- History Day in Alaska sponsors include the National Park Service, National Archives and Records Administration, Alaska Historical Society, Alaska Airlines, and The History Channel.