

SB

2009

SFIN

FILE

ALASKA

state plan
senior services
FY 2008 - FY 2011



**State of Alaska
Department of Health & Social Services**

**ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING
State Plan for Senior Services**

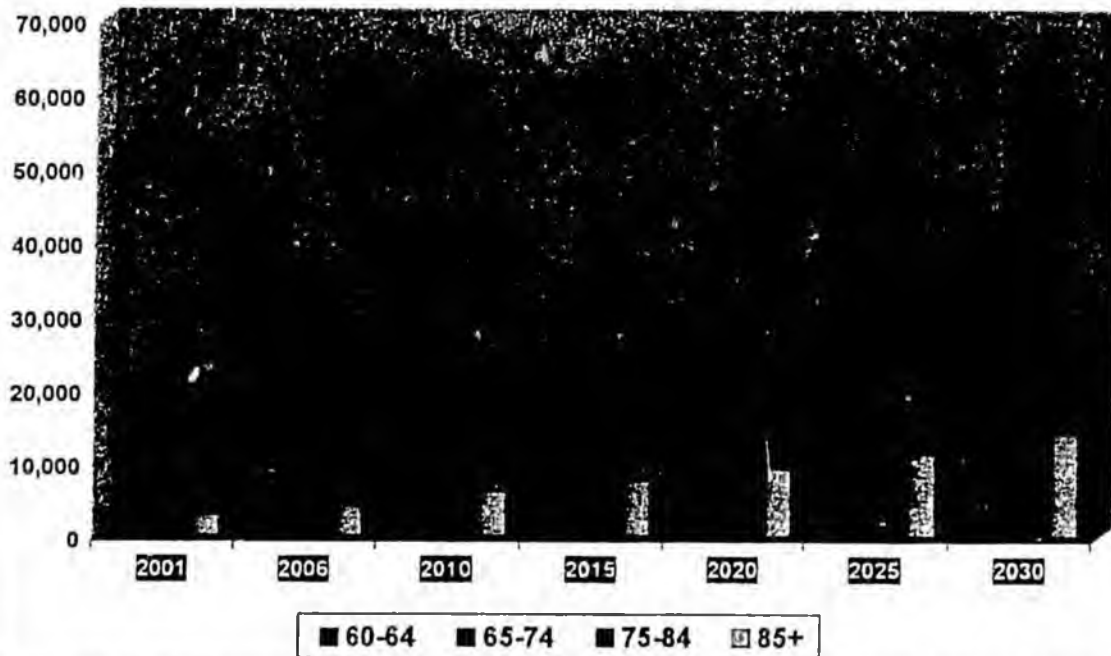
**FY 2008 – FY 2011
(July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2011)**

**Sarah Palin, Governor
State of Alaska**

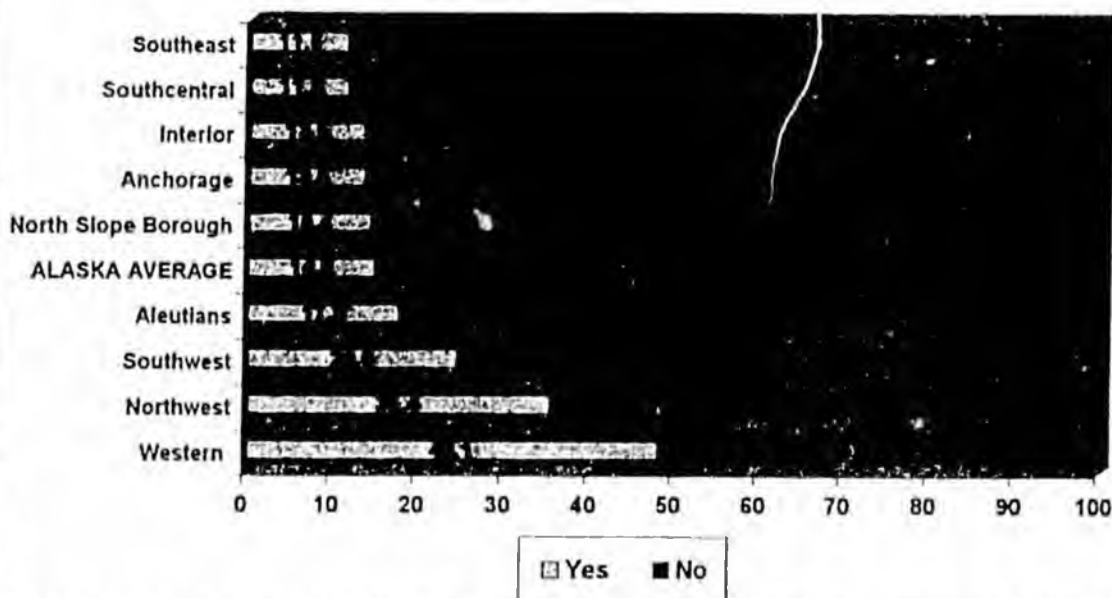
**Karleen K. Jackson, Ph.D., Commissioner
Alaska Department of Health & Social Services**



Older Alaskans by Age Group, 2001 - 2030



Seniors 65+ Receiving SeniorCare Benefits, April 2007



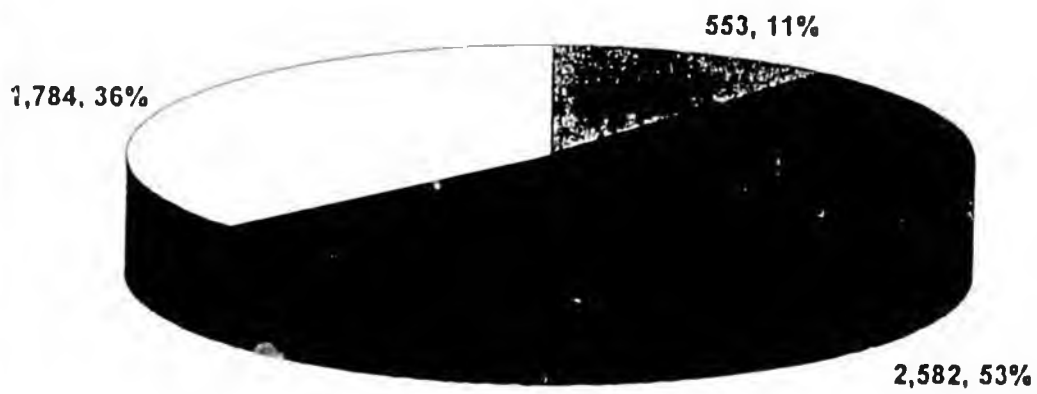
ALL GRAPHS PRODUCED BY ACoA

Urban and Rural Older Alaskans



■ Urban ■ Rural

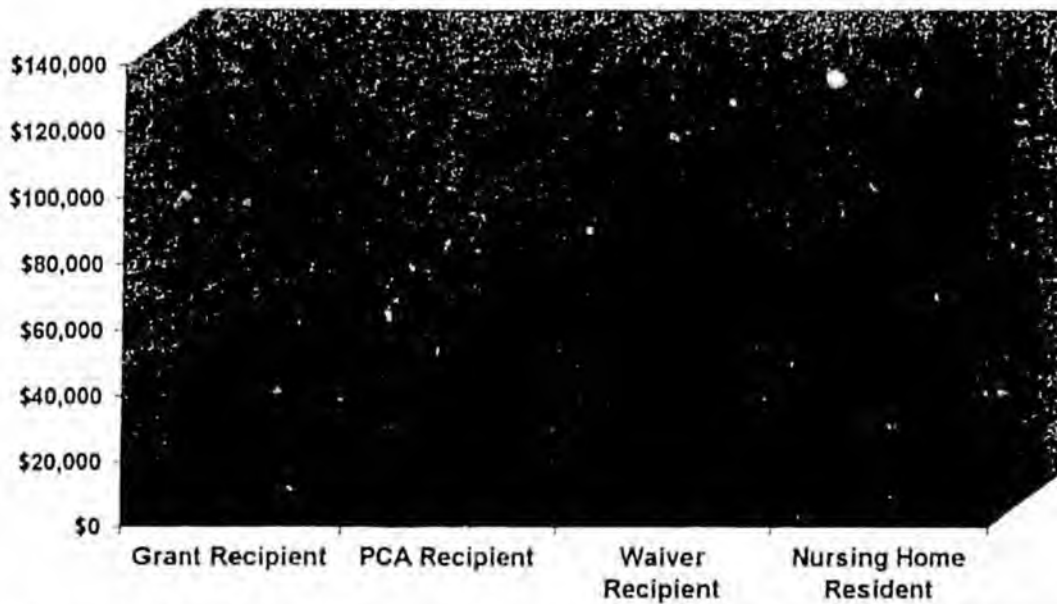
Estimated Number of Alaskans Age 65+ with ADRD



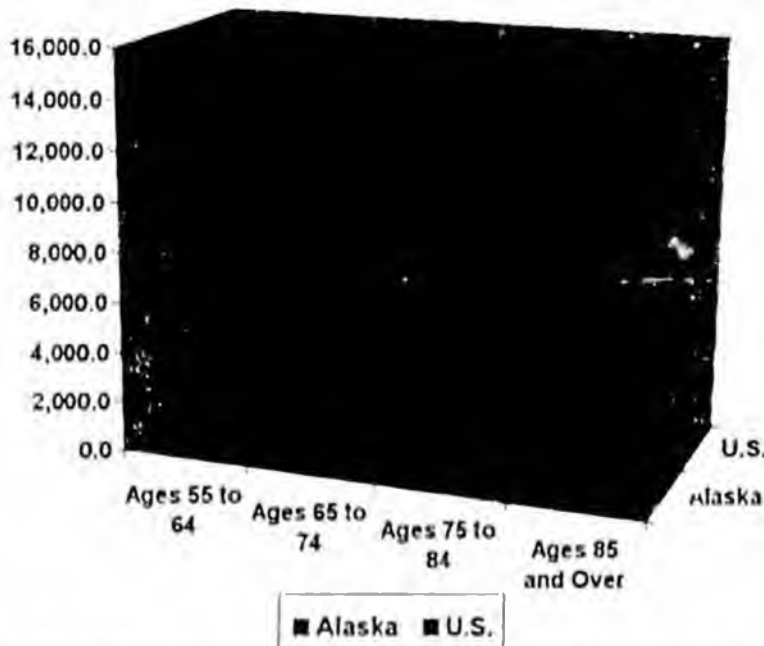
■ Age 65 to 74 ■ Age 75 to 84 □ Age 85+

ALL GRAPHS PRODUCED BY ACoA

Average Annual Costs of Long-Term Care Options, FY 06
(Senior & Disabilities Services)



Age-Adjusted Death Rates (Per 100,000) by Age Group



ALL GRAPHS PRODUCED BY ACoA



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Assistant Secretary
Administration on Aging

Washington D.C. 20201

JUN 26 2007

The Honorable Sarah Palin
Governor of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Palin:

It is my pleasure to inform you that the four-year Alaska State Plan for Senior Services beginning July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2011 is approved. It is a comprehensive document that integrates Older Americans Act requirements with the extensive, collaborative plans produced by the inter-agency State Plan Advisory Committee.

I am particularly pleased by the efforts of the Alaska Commission on Aging in involving seniors, the public and providers as well as state agencies in the development and public review of the plan. This proactive strategy will enhance Alaska's continuing development of its service delivery system with an emphasis on choices for older individuals.

The Regional Office staff of the U.S. Administration on Aging in Seattle and I look forward to working with you in the implementation of the State Plan. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. I appreciate your dedication and commitment toward improving the lives of older persons in Alaska.

Sincerely,


Josefina G. Carbonell
Assistant Secretary for Aging

**ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
STATE PLAN FOR SENIOR SERVICES
APPROVAL**

The Alaska Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS) hereby submits the Alaska State Plan for Senior Services for the period of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2011 (State fiscal years 2008 through 2011). Governor Sarah Palin has designated the Department of Health & Social Services as Alaska's sole state agency on aging. The Alaska Commission on Aging within DHSS has been authorized by Alaska Statute [(AS 47.45.240(a) (1))] to develop the state plan on aging in accordance with the provisions of the Older Americans Act and its amendments. The plan, as submitted, documents the needs of older Alaskans and establishes direction for the coordination of all State activities related to seniors, with an emphasis on those efforts related to the Older Americans Act, including the development of a comprehensive and coordinated system for the delivery of supportive services.

The Plan, as submitted, has been developed in accordance with all federal statutory and regulatory requirements.

The State Plan for Senior Services is hereby approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Health & Social Services, as the Governor's designee, and constitutes authorization to proceed with activities under the Plan upon approval by the Assistant Secretary for Aging.

I hereby approve this State Plan and am pleased to present it to Alaskans.

Date

Karleen K. Jackson, Ph.D., Commissioner
Alaska Department of Health & Social Services

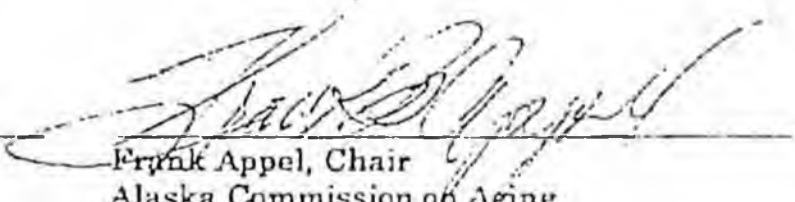
ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING
STATE PLAN FOR SENIOR SERVICES
APPROVAL

The State Plan for Senior Services is hereby approved by the Alaska Commission on Aging, as the agency authorized by the Commissioner of the Department of Health & Social Services and by Alaska Statute [(AS 47.45.240(a)(1))] to develop the state plan on aging in accordance with the provisions of the Older Americans Act and its amendments.

Frank Appel, Chair
Michael Black, Designee, Department of Commerce, Community & Economic
Development
Lillian Boen-Kasnick
Patricia Branson
Sharon Howerton-Clark
Betty Keegan
Banarsi Lal
Rod Moline, Designee, Department of Health & Social Services
Iver Malutin
Paula Pawlowski
Edward Zastrow

Date

3/07


Frank Appel, Chair
Alaska Commission on Aging

**Alaska's State Plan for Senior Services,
FY 2008 – FY 2011
May 1, 2007**

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Executive Summary

As the state with the highest proportion of baby boomers (32%), Alaska will find its senior population growing faster than almost any other state as that group reaches its senior years. While in the past many Alaskans chose to leave the state after retirement, more and more retirees now prefer to remain here. By 2030, the proportion of seniors 65+ will double to comprise 13% of the Alaska population, with those age 60+ making up 17%. The oldest group of seniors, those age 85+, is expected to almost triple during the next 25 years, vastly increasing the number of Alaskans living with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders (ADRD).

While census data do not show high levels of poverty among Alaska seniors, the census does not consider differences in cost of living among different areas of the country. The most financially vulnerable groups of seniors typically include widowed and divorced women, Alaska Natives and other racial minorities, high-school dropouts, people not eligible for Social Security benefits (perhaps due to a subsistence lifestyle), those with a limited work history, and the oldest seniors (whose fixed incomes have taken a beating from inflation over the years).

Surprisingly to some who may view seniors as a liability to the state, retired Alaskans constitute one of the largest and healthiest sectors of Alaska's economy. In 2004, according to the University of Alaska Institute for Social and Economic Research, retired Alaskans age 60 and older contributed almost \$1.5 billion to the state's economy, primarily from retirement income and health care spending. This was roughly ten times the total cost of State programs targeting seniors. Senior spending provides a large economic multiplier effect in local communities, and many other advantages, including a high volume of local spending, a diverse job mix, a low level of seasonality, stability from year to year (not dependent on fluctuating world market conditions), an environmentally benign footprint, compatibility with other industries, non-enclave location (not concentrated in remote rural areas), and economies of scale which reduce costs for all Alaskans, particularly in health care services.

Alaskan seniors have a lower age-adjusted death rate than U.S. seniors overall. While more older Alaskans smoke, drink heavily, and binge drink, as a group they are more likely to eat plenty of fruits and vegetables, engage in physical activity, and describe themselves as being in good health. Falls are the leading cause of non-fatal injuries requiring hospitalization for every age group in Alaska, but serious injuries from falls increase dramatically in the senior population. Sadly, suicide rates among older Alaskans are considerably higher than national averages, though suicide does not constitute a leading cause of death here. Top causes of death in the older age groups in Alaska include cancer, heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, chronic lower respiratory disease, and Alzheimer's disease.¹

Challenges on the horizon for older Alaskans include income insecurity, the

¹ Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics

need for more reliable access to health care and long-term care supports, a looming physician shortage, absence of geriatric education among providers, a shortage of a sufficient senior services and health care services workforce to meet future needs, the need for emergency preparedness for a wide range of potential disasters, and soaring energy and utility costs.

The State of Alaska provides a wide range of programs and services addressed to seniors, spanning multiple divisions and departments. Funds from the Older Americans Act as well as State general funds and resources from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and other federal, State, and non-governmental sources help to pay for these services, many of which are provided through grant agreements with local non-profit service agencies. While the services and benefits available to Alaska seniors are impressive, increasing strain on the state's services system from the burgeoning senior population is inevitable, and demands advance planning (in particular the creation of a long-term care strategic plan) as well as a coordinated advocacy effort to obtain increased funding for senior needs.

This state plan focuses on six overall goals, with their respective objectives and recommended strategies. The goals cover keeping seniors healthy, active, and involved in their communities; ensuring access to an integrated array of health and social supports along the continuum of care; supporting families in their efforts to care for loved ones at home and in the community; providing a range of adequate, accessible, secure and affordable housing options for seniors; supporting a stable senior services and health care workforce as well as a range of attractive employment opportunities for seniors; and ensuring that older Alaskans are safe from catastrophic events and protected from personal exploitation, neglect, and abuse. For each year of the plan's coverage, an annual implementation plan will be created by all interested senior organizations, with each committing to work on specific strategies outlined in the plan.

While similar weighting factors (total number of seniors, seniors age 80+, minority seniors, poverty-level seniors, and rural seniors) have been used in the funding framework for this state plan as in the previous (FY 2003 – FY 2007) plan, seniors' demographic patterns have shifted substantially since the 2000 census. While no region of the state is seeing an actual decrease in its number of seniors, some regions are growing at a much faster rate than others. Railbelt census areas (those along the central rail corridor of the state, especially the Kenai Peninsula Borough, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Anchorage, and Fairbanks North Star Borough) are experiencing an influx of seniors from out-of-state and from more rural, remote regions of Alaska. Older Alaskans may move to more populated areas to obtain services or to be closer to relatives. In order to avoid the shock of a dramatic fund shift for some regions in the first year of this plan and to give those regions slated for a loss of funding the opportunity to seek other resources, the State will continue to use the FY 2003 – FY 2007 funding allotments during FY 2008 and FY 2009; in FY 2010, allocations will reflect 50% of the change dictated by the new funding framework, and by FY 2011 100% of the fund shifts will be implemented.

The coming quarter-century will usher in a dramatic period of growing need for senior services in Alaska. Nevertheless, seniors' many contributions to the state and its economy are recognized, and the State considers it a privilege to plan for and provide the services needed to preserve their quality of life. Alaska's State Plan for Senior Services, FY 2008 – FY 2011 presents a wide-ranging, inclusive vision to guide the effort to provide those services in a respectful manner that upholds the dignity and independence of older Alaskans.

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 2/25/06

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 2/15/08

Finance Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 209

SB 209 EXTEND ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING

"An Act extending the termination date of the Alaska Commission on Aging; and providing for an effective date."

and recommend.:

- be replaced with SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

SENATE BILL:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title
HOUSE BILL:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical Title Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title w/ SCR # _____

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
HSS	3/14/08	✓			

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	Elton	✓			
	Thomas	✓			
	Dyson			✓	
	Mulgrew	✓			
	Olson			✓	
CO-CHAIR:	Hoffman	✓			
CO-CHAIR:	Sisson	✓			

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: SB 209
 () Publish Date: _____
 Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services
 RDU: Boards and Commissions
 Component: Commission on Aging

ID(File name) SB209-DHSS-CoA-03-14-08
 Title EXTEND ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING
 Sponsor DAVIS
 Requester SENATE FIN

Component No. 2674

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation		Information					
	Required		FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services			347.2	347.2	347.2	347.2	347.2	347.2
Travel			49.2	49.2	49.2	49.2	49.2	49.2
Contractual			78.1	78.1	78.1	78.1	78.1	78.1
Supplies			8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING			0.0	482.8	482.8	482.8	482.8	482.8

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES								
CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)								

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF			48.9	48.9	48.9	48.9	48.9	48.9
1037 GF/Mental Health			30.1	30.1	30.1	30.1	30.1	30.1
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)			298.8	298.8	298.8	298.8	298.8	298.8
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)			105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0
TOTAL			0.0	482.8	482.8	482.8	482.8	482.8

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time		4	4	4	4	4	4
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) is due to sunset June 30, 2008. Continuation funding is budgeted in the FY09 Governor's Request

The Division of Legislative Audit determined that the ACoA is "helping older Alaskans lead dignified, independent, and productive lives." The audit recommended the legislature adopt legislation extending ACoA's termination date to June 30, 2016. SB209 makes that amendment.

(Continued on Page 2)

Prepared by: Rod Moline, Division Director
 Division: Senior & Disabilities Services
 Approved by: Karleen Jackson, Commissioner
 Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Phone: 465-3819
 Date/Time: 03/14/2008
 Date: 03/14/2008

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO: SB 209

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

Section 306(a)(D) of the Older American's Act (OAA) requires the establishment of an advisory council consisting of older individuals who are participants or who are eligible to participate in programs assisted under this Act. Federal funding, made available to the State under OAA, is contingent on satisfying this requirement. ACoA satisfies this federal requirement.

Alaska State Legislature

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Phone: (907) 269-0144
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Senator_Bettye_Davis@legis.state.ak.us
<http://www.akdemocrats.org>

Office of Senator Bettye Davis

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 209 "An Act extending the termination date of the Alaska Commission on Aging; and providing for an effective date."

SB 209 extends the termination date of the Alaska Commission on Aging until June 30, 2016. Established under AS 44.21.200 in 1982, the Alaska Commission on Aging provides needed services and advocates for senior citizens through state policy, public and private partnerships, state/federal projects, and citizen involvement. Charged with planning, advocacy, and education on behalf of the needs and concerns of seniors and their caregivers, the Alaska Commission on Aging is comprised of an 11-member board staffed by an executive director, two planners, an administrative assistant, and during FY 2007, a student intern. Administered under the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, the Commission is directed by statute to make recommendations to the Governor, the administration, and the legislature with respect to legislation, regulations, and appropriations for programs and services benefiting older Alaskans; to develop a comprehensive state plan for senior services as required for states receiving funding under the Older Americans Act of 1965; and to advise and work with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and Trust beneficiary boards to identify issues, propose projects, and recommend funding. Grant funds of the Older Americans Act are administered by the Division of Senior & Disabilities Services.

The purpose of the Alaska Commission on Aging is to improve the quality of life, services, and support for seniors as they age. Objectives include helping seniors attain and maintain personal and financial independence at the highest level for as long as possible and promoting their physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional health. In addition, the Commission tries to help seniors remain in their own homes or chosen communities in the least restrictive settings, while keeping them connected to their families and informed and helpful in their communities.



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BILL ANALYSIS

DEPARTMENT Health & Social Services	DIVISION Senior & Disability Services	BILL NUMBER SB 209	SPONSOR DAVIS
SHORT TITLE OF BILL EXTEND ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING			
DEPARTMENT POSITION Support			
PREPARED BY Joanne Gibbens	DATE 01/16/2008	COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURE Karleen Jackson	DATE 02/17/2008

SUMMARY

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED BY BILL Alaska Commission on Aging	CONSTITUENT GROUP(S) AFFECTED BY BILL Seniors
ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT FOR BILL	ORGANIZATIONAL OPPOSITION TO BILL none known

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE FISCAL NOTE ATTACHED

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE INTENT
Under Alaska statute 44.66.050, a number of boards and commissions have expiration dates. The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) has an expiration date of June 30, 2008. In accordance with Alaska Statutes as part of the legislative oversight responsibility, the Division of Legislative Audit conducted a sunset review of the commission during 2007. The purpose of this review was to assess the demonstrated public need for the continuation of the Commission.

ANALYSIS OF BILL/PROGRAM EFFECTS
The Division of Legislative Audit determined that the ACoA is "helping older Alaskans lead dignified, independent, and productive lives." The audit recommended the legislature adopt legislation extending ACoA's termination date to June 30, 2016. SB 209 makes that amendment.
Section 306(a)(D) of the Older American's Act (OAA) requires the establishment of an advisory council consisting of older individuals who are participants or who are eligible to participate in programs assisted under this Act. Federal funding, made available to the State under OAA, is contingent on satisfying this requirement. ACoA satisfies this federal requirement. The department supports SB 209 in that it will enable the ACoA to continue its function as an advisory council that plans, educates and advocates for Alaska's seniors.

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED

PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR ANALYSIS.



MAR 13 2008

March 13, 2008

The Honorable Lyman Hoffman, Co-Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

The Honorable Bert Stedman, Co-Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 516
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

E: SB 209 (Davis)--Support

Dear Co-Chairs Hoffman and Stedman:

On behalf of the members of AARP in Alaska, we encourage you and your colleagues on the Senate Finance Committee to support SB 209, authored by Senator Bettye Davis and co-sponsored by Senator Johnny Ellis.

SB 209 will extend the Alaska Commission on Aging for eight years. This matches the recommendation of the recent legislative audit which found the Commission and the Commissioners helping older Alaskans lead dignified, independent and productive lives.

AARP volunteers and staff work closely with the Commissioners and Commission staff. We have a very high regard for the Commissioners. They represent some of Alaska's "best and brightest." Many of them have very relevant local experience with aging and gerontology issues but they also bring the vision necessary to go beyond the local level and determine what is in the best interests of our entire state. Likewise, the Commission staff have performed as exceptional professionals.

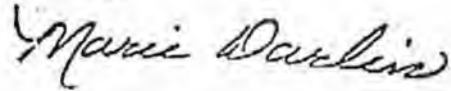
We agree with the findings of the Legislative Auditor.

AARP recommends an "AYE" vote on SB 209.

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,



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 Charlie Huggins
Senator Kim Elton
Senator Donald Olson
Senator Joe Thomas
Senator Fred Dyson
Senator Bettyc Davis