

SB

243

SFIN

FILE

SLC

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 2/27/08

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 3/15/08

Finance Committee considered

SENATE BILL NO. 243

SB 243 COMMISSION ON AGING

"An Act relating to the duties and powers of the Alaska Commission on Aging and the Department of Health and Social Services."

and recommends:

- be replaced with SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous SCS or CS SB 243 (HES) (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

SENATE BILL:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title
<hr/>	
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#

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
HSS	1/23/08			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES/AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	Elta	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	Thomas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	DYSON				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Huggins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	Ockford			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
CO-CHAIR:	HOFFMANN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
CO-CHAIR:	SPELMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: CSSB 2-3(HES)
 (S) Publish Date: 2/27/08
 Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services
 RDU: Senior and Disabilities Svcs
 Component: Senior/Disabilities Svcs Admin

ID(File name) SB243-DHSS-SDSA-1-24-2008
 Title: COMMISSION ON AGING

Sponsor: DAVIS
 Requester: SENATE HES Component No. 2663

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								
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 (0)								
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill has zero fiscal impact. It seeks to bring into alignment grant duties and responsibilities that were previously given to DHSS when the Commission on Aging and Division of Senior Services became part of this department. Any fiscal impact from these changes has already been realized and assimilated into the grants process.

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

Phone: 465-3819
 Date/Time: 01/23/2008
 Date: 01/24/2008

LEGAL SERVICES

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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
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Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
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MEMORANDUM

March 11, 2008

SUBJECT: Sectional summary for CSSB 243(HES)
(Work Order No. 25-LS1351AE)

TO: Senator Bettye Davis
Attn: Tom Obermeyer

FROM: Kathryn L. Kurtz
Assistant Revisor

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. Adds duties for the Department of Health and Social Services that include establishing state policy for older Alaskans and administering grants for older Alaskans, adult day care, and family respite care.

Section 2. Changes the reference to a paragraph in AS 47.45.240(a) to reflect the renumbering of the paragraph because of an amendment in sec. 4 of the bill.

Section 3. Changes the duties of the executive director for the Alaska Commission on Aging to formulate for the department a statewide plan for older Alaskans and deletes the duties pertaining to administering related federal grants and programs.

Section 4. Makes the Alaska Commission on Aging statewide plan subject to the review of the department and deletes program policy responsibilities of the commission.

Section 5. Limits the authority of the Alaska Commission on Aging to recommending standards of services provided to older Alaskans that are administered by the department and deletes rulemaking authority of the commission.

Section 6. Defines "department" as the Department of Health and Social Services in AS 47.45.010 - 47.45.160.

Section 7. Transfers authority for the distribution of appropriations for services to older

Senator Bettye Davis
March 11, 2008
Page 2

Alaskans from the commission to the department.

Section 8. Transfers the allocation authority for community service program funding for services to older Alaskans from the commission to the department.

Section 9. Transfers the allocation authority for pilot project grants for services to older Alaskans from the commission to the department.

Section 10. Transfers the authority to set contribution amounts for grants from the commission to the department.

Section 11. Transfers the authority to request state assessor computations from the commission to the department.

Section 12. Transfers the authority to estimate program costs for grant awards from the commission to the department.

Section 13. Transfers the authority to waive contributions and adopt regulations for waivers from the commission to the department.

Section 14. Transfers the authority to administer grants and make payments for services to older Alaskans from the commission to the department.

Section 15. Transfers the authority to make grants for adult day care and family respite services from the commission to the department.

Section 16. Removes the commission's authority to enter into certain contract and grant agreements.

Section 17. Transfers the authority to set fees for adult day care and family respite services from the commission to the department.

Section 18. Transfers the authority to award grants for family respite care and adult day care services from the commission to the department.

Section 19. Repeals the definition for "commission" and replaces it with the definition for "department." Defines "department" to be the Department of Health and Social Services in AS 47.65.

KLK:med
08-177.med

Alaska State Legislature

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Senator Bettye Davis@legis.state.ak.us
<http://www.akdemocrats.org>

Senator Bettye Davis

CS for Senate Bill 243(HES), 25-LS1351\E

“An Act relating to the duties and powers of the Alaska Commission on Aging and the Department of Health and Social Services.”

SPONSOR STATEMENT

The CS for Senate Bill 243(HES), 25-LS1351\E, has a zero fiscal note. As required by a 2007 Legislative Audit, this “clean-up” bill brings into alignment grant duties and responsibilities that were previously given to the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), when the Commission on Aging (ACoA) and Division of Senior Services became part of DHSS. For this reason, statutory changes repeatedly replace “Commission” (ACoA) with “Department” (DHSS) to properly recognize the duties and responsibilities of each. This bill, which mirrors CSHB 279(HES), 25-LS1106\E, assigns authority for establishing state policy related to the Older Americans Act federal programs and state programs for Older Alaskans to the Department of Health and Social Services. DHSS is recognized as the state “Unit on Aging.” The bill also transfers grant authority related to senior service grants, adult day care, and family respite care grants from the Alaska Commission on Aging to DHSS. DHSS has assigned these grant administrative duties to Senior and Disabilities Services.

As background to the importance of the duties and responsibilities recognized in this bill, the Alaska Commission on Aging is responsible for planning, advocacy, and community education activities related to the health and welfare of older Alaskans. It has relationships with state departments and agencies across the state, including the governor’s office, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, the Alaska Housing and Finance Corporation, and non-governmental organizations. The need for senior programs and services is rapidly increasing. Per the State plan for Senior Services FY 2008-FY 2011, Alaska already has the highest proportion of baby boomers (32%) in the nation, and its senior population is growing faster than almost any other state. By 2030 seniors 60+ will comprise 17% of the Alaska population, with a doubling of the number of those 65+.

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**

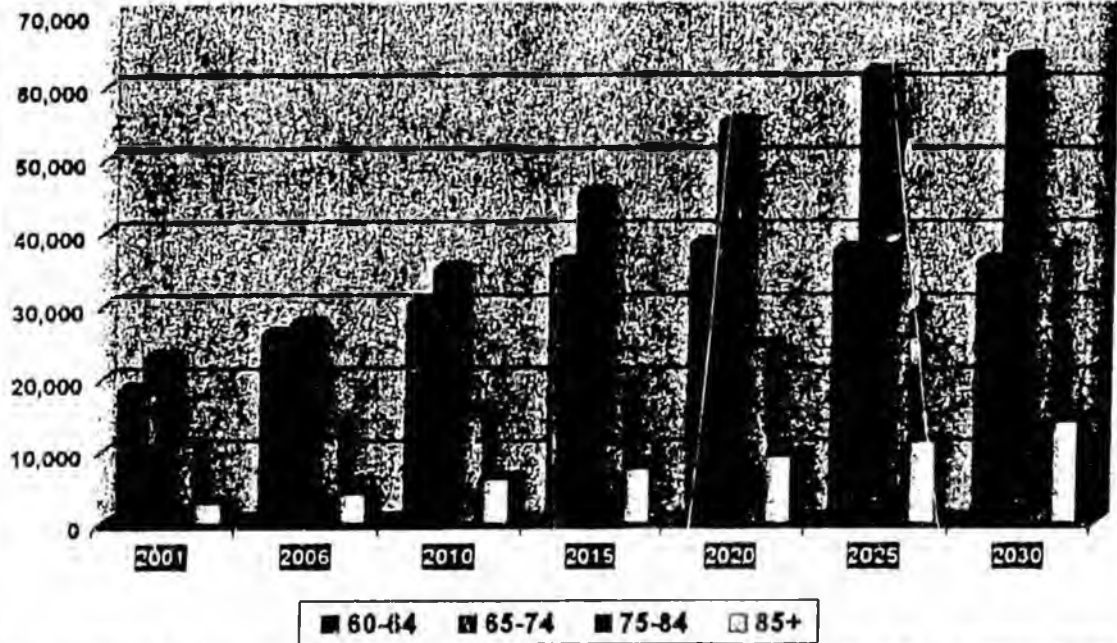
**FY 2008 – FY 2011
(July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2011)**

**Sarah Palin, Governor
State of Alaska**

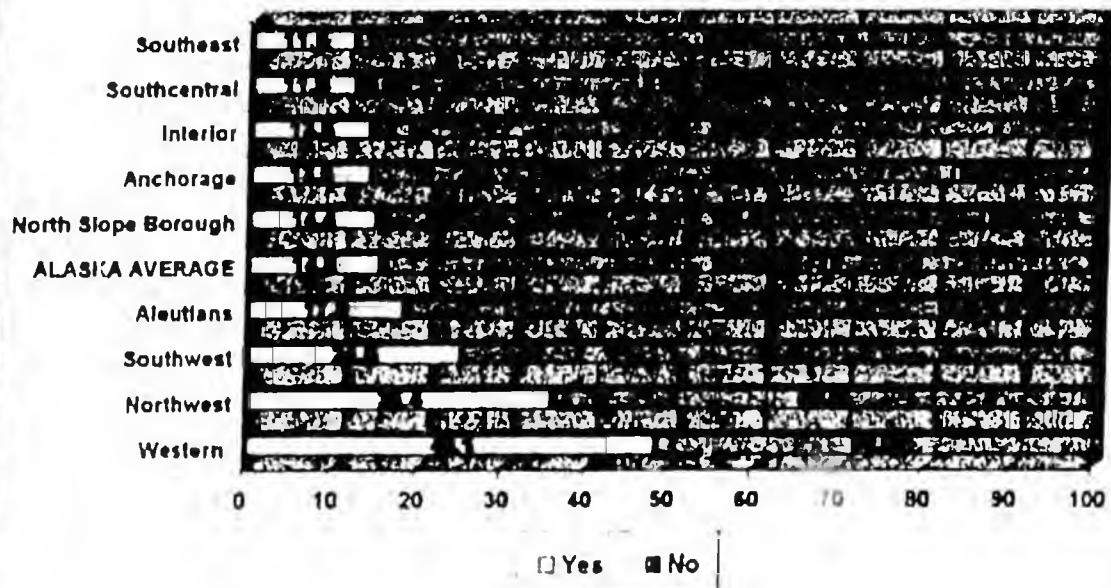
**Karleen K. Jackson, Ph.D., Commissioner
Alaska Department of Health & Social Services**



Older Alaskans by Age Group, 2001 - 2030

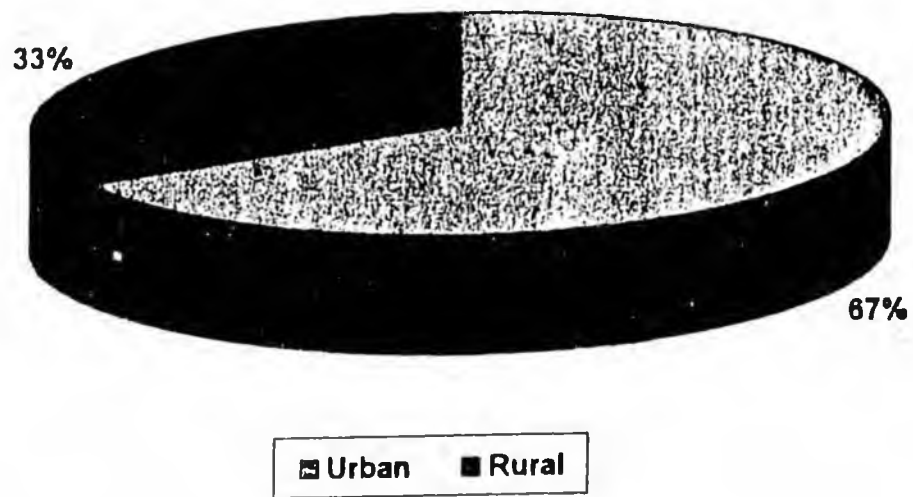


Seniors 65+ Receiving SeniorCare Benefits, April 2007

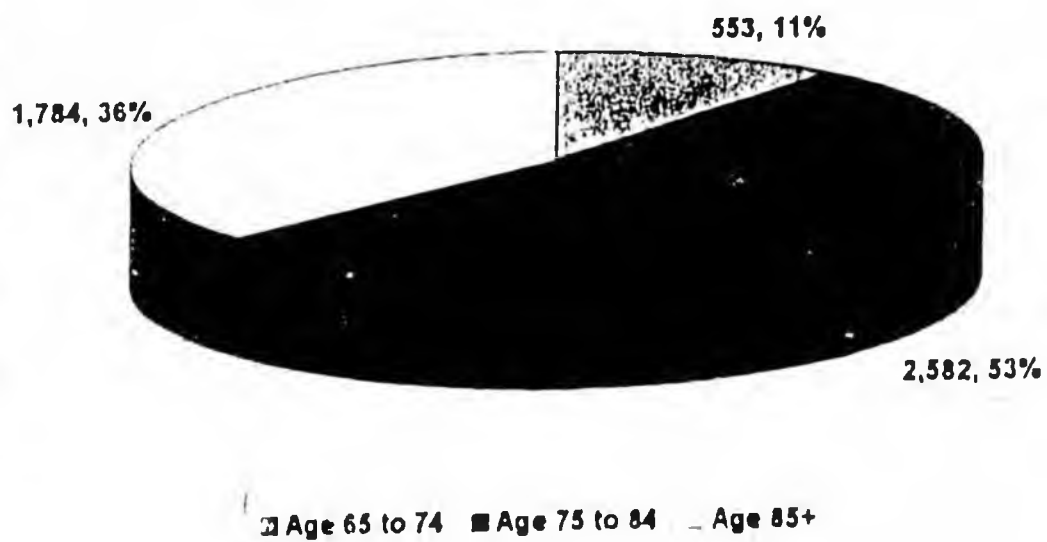


ALL GRAPHS PRODUCED BY ACoA

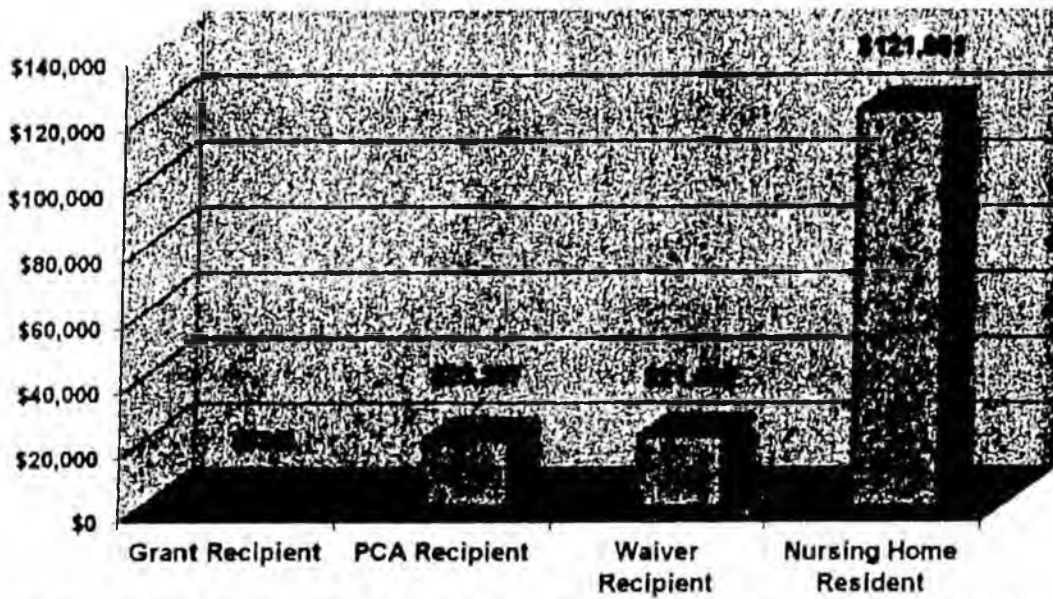
Urban and Rural Older Alaskans



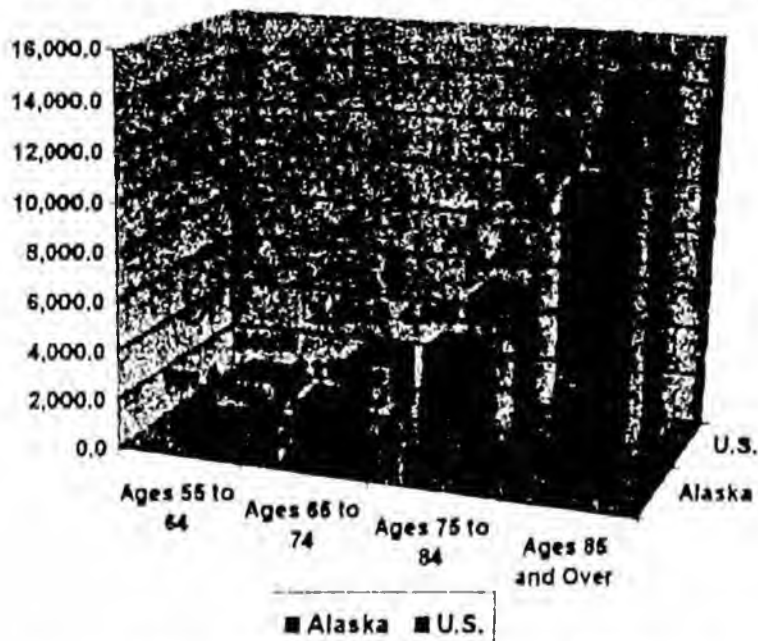
Estimated Number of Alaskans Age 65+ with ADRD



**Average Annual Costs of Long-Term Care Options, FY 08
(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

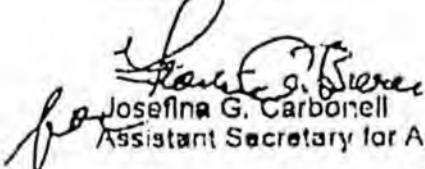
Dear Governor Palin:

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**

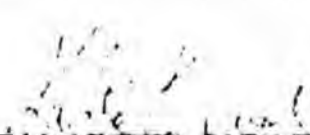
The Alaska Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS) hereby submits the Alaska State Plan for Senior Services for the period of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2011 (State fiscal years 2008 through 2011). Governor Sarah Palin has designated the Department of Health & Social Services as Alaska's sole 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 17.45.240(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 Roen-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.

**Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA)
Testimony on SB 243
Prepared by Denise Daniello, ACoA Executive Director**

The purpose of this proposed legislation is to amend state law to align the statutes with the current mission and activities of the Commission and the Department of Health and Social Services which were initiated by Executive Order 108 of July 1, 2003. In essence, the Order transferred grant administration and state agency on aging responsibilities previously performed by the Alaska Commission on Aging in the Department of Administration to the Department of Health and Social Services as the State Unit on Aging and reestablished ACoA in DHSS. Furthermore, Executive Order 108 established Senior and Disabilities Services within the Department which assumed the grant administration functions previously performed by ACoA. Currently, the Commission has retained all other responsibilities it previously performed within the Department of Administration, with the exception of those related to senior grants which have been assigned to Senior and Disabilities Services.

Specifically, this proposed legislation:

- ❖ Assigns authority for establishing state policy related to Older Americans Act federal programs and state programs for Older Alaskans to the Department of Health and Social Services, as the State Unit on Aging, and
- ❖ Transfers grant authority related to senior service grants, adult day care, and family respite care grants from ACoA to the Department of Health and Social Services. The Department has assigned these grant administrative duties to Senior and Disabilities Services.

The U.S. Administration on Aging distributes Older American Act funds to states to support home and community based services for seniors. For a state to receive these funds, a state agency must be designated as the "state unit on aging." In Alaska, the Department of Health and Social Services is the State Unit on Aging as determined by Executive Order 108. The state unit responsibilities (as defined by the federal Older Americans Act) are carried out jointly by Senior and Disabilities Services and the Alaska Commission on Aging. While SDS is responsible for administering and distributing federal funds, the Commission has been responsible for planning, community education, and advocating for Alaska seniors.

Passage of HB 279 is requested to amend statutes so that they reflect the current roles of ACoA and the Department and to cure the "one and only finding" reported by the Division of Legislative Audit in its sunset review of the Commission in July 2007. ACoA supports this legislation which allows the Commission to focus its work on planning, education, and advocacy activities on behalf of Alaska's seniors.

The 2007 audit reviewed the operation and activities of the Commission for the period July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2007 to determine if the termination date of the Commission should be extended and if the Commission is operating in the public interest. The audit report was very positive with more than a 90% approval rating by

those surveyed on a variety of dimensions related to the Commission's planning, advocacy, and community education activities. Regarding the organizational changes initiated by Executive Order 108, the report conclusions stated "... ACoA has emerged from the reorganization as a respected planner, educator, and advocator for Alaska's seniors...(p. 7)", that a public need exists for the continuation of ACoA, and that the legislature extend ACoA's termination date to June 30, 2016. There were no complaints filed against the Commission.



March 13, 2008

The Honorable Lyman Hoffinan, 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

RE: SB 243 (Davis) – Support

Dear Co-Chairs Hoffinan 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 243 which is authored by Senator Bettye Davis.

SB 243 is basically a “clean up” bill which brings the Alaska Commission on Aging into compliance with changes that have been in place for several years that deal with Commission responsibilities and those of Senior and Disability Services.

SB 243 incorporates the recommendations of the Legislative Auditor.

AARP recommends an “AYE” vote on SB 243.

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 Charlie Huggins
Senator Kiju Elton
Senator Donald Olson

Senator Joe Thomas
Senator Fred Dyson
Senator Bettye Davis