

SB

97

SFIN

FILE

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

REPORTED OUT
 MAR 21 2007
 SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

DATE: 3/14/07

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED IN TO OFFICE: 21 March 2007

Finance Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 97

SB 97 ALASKA NATIVE ART IDENTIFICATION SEALS

"An Act relating to identification seals for certain articles created or crafted in the state by Alaska Native persons; relating to the Alaska State Council on the Arts; and making certain identification seal violations unfair trade practices."

and recommends:

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

SENATE BILL:

Same Title

New Title

HOUSE BILL:

Same Title

Technical Title Change

New Title w/ SCR # _____

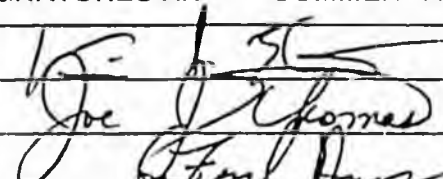
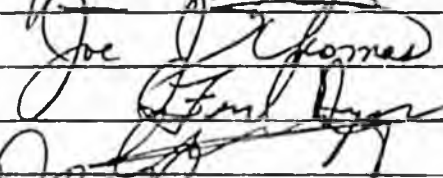
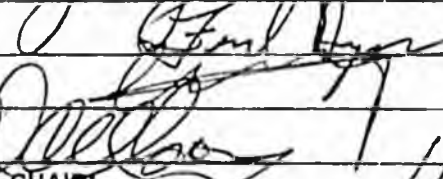
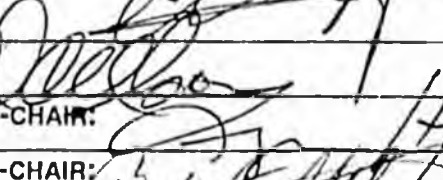
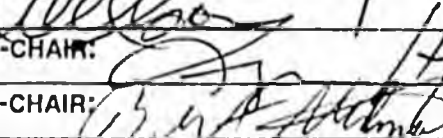
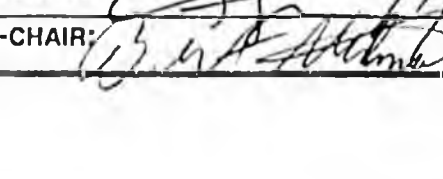

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
Educ.	3/8/07			✓	#1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	Elb	✓			
	Thomas	✓			
	Dyson	✓			
	Higgins	✓			
	O'Shea	✓			
CO-CHAIR: 	Hoffman	✓			
CO-CHAIR: 	Stedman	✓			

REPORTED OUT
MAR 21 2007
 SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
 2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: SB 97
 (S) Publish Date: 3/14/07

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Education & Early Development
 Title: An act relating to identification seals for certain RDU: Commissions and Boards
 articles created or crafted in the state by Alaska Native person; Component: Alaska Council on the Arts
 Sponsor: Senator Stevens
 Requester: Labor and Commerce, Finance Component No.: 192

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	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	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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 (FY2007) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation helps clarify existing law to identify genuine Alaska Native art that is crafted in the state by Alaska Native individuals. Those who would 'knowingly' use a seal without obtaining a permit and found in violation of the law will be subject to a class B misdemeanor.

Prepared by: Eddy Jeans, Director
 Division: School Finance
 Approved by: Barbara Thompson, Deputy Commissioner
 Agency: Education & Early Development

Phone: 465-8679
 Date/Time: 3/8/07 10:01 AM
 Date: 3/8/2007

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



Sponsor Statement for Senate Bill 97

"An Act relating to identification seals for certain articles created or crafted in the state by Alaska Native persons; relating to the Alaska State Council on the Arts; and making certain identification seal violations unfair trade practices"

Senate Bill 97 seeks to improve the statutes governing the administration of the Silver Hand program. The Silver Hand program was created to help promote the creation, appreciation, and sale of Alaska Native art of the highest quality. Alaska Natives have a great variety of artistic traditions stretching back for millennia and which are still an important part of life today. Alaska Native art shares the cultures of Alaska Native peoples and enriches the lives of all Alaskans today. It is admired around the world, and is a vital part of the personal and community expression of Alaska Native identity. Alaska Native art is also highly valued in the marketplace, both within the state boundaries, and nationally and internationally. For so many reasons, it is good for all Alaskans to promote the creation of Alaska Native art and to ensure the legitimacy of Alaska Native art.

SB 97 will make several targeted changes to the law under which the Alaska State Council on the Arts administers the Silver Hand program. Among the changes it seeks to effect, it will delete obsolete references to agents, refers to the creations of Alaska Native artists with the term art instead of handicraft, clarifies the penalty for violating the Silver Hand laws and that sale and purchase of Silver Hand seals is prohibited, and sets out clearly the conduct related to Silver Hand seals that is not allowed.

SB 97 will take a good program and make it better. I urge your support passage 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

March 5, 2007

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary of SB 97 relating to identification seals for certain articles created or crafted in the state by Alaska Native persons. (Work Order No. 25-LS0405\M)

TO: Senator Gary Stevens
Attn: Doug Letch

FROM: *JB*
Theresa Bannister
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.

Section 1. Amends AS 44.27.050 to conform the description of the identification seal duties of the Alaska State Council on the Arts to the changes made in this bill.

Section 2. Amends the list of unfair trade practices in the state's unfair trade practices act to add the identification seal conduct prohibited under AS 45.65.055.

Section 3. Amends the criteria that determine who may obtain an identification seal. Amends the criteria that determine which articles the seal may be affixed to.

Section 4. Amends the description of the responsibility of the Alaska State Council on the Arts relating to identification seals. Conforms the language to other changes made in this bill and adds fee collection responsibility.

Section 5. Amends AS 45.65.030(a) to conform to other changes made in this bill and to require that a space, rather than a blank line, be included for the artist's name and the place of origin of the article.

Section 6. Amends AS 45.65.040(a) to remove the reference to an agent in order to reflect that a permit can only be issued by the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

Section 7. Amends AS 45.65.040(d) to require the Alaska State Council on the Arts to determine whether a person is eligible for the permit, as well as whether an article is eligible for an identification seal. Deletes the reference to an agent.

Senator Gary Stevens

March 5, 2007

Page 2

Section 8. Amends AS 45.65.040(e) to allow a person to report an identification seal violation and to delete the reference to agents.

Section 9. Adds a new section that describes the conduct that is prohibited when dealing with identification seals.

Section 10. Amends AS 45.65.060(a) to refer to the new sec. 45.65.055 (prohibited conduct) to describe what will be considered a misdemeanor with regard to identification seals. Adds a definition of "knowingly" and deletes "willfully."

Section 11. Amends AS 45.65.060(c) to conform the language to other changes made in the Act.

Section 12. Amends the definition to define "authentic Alaska Native art" as art that is created or crafted by an Alaska Native person.

Section 13. Amends the definition section to add definitions of "Alaska Native person," "art," "identification seal," "original," and "recognized Alaska tribe."

Section 14. Repeals certain provisions of AS 45.65.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

TLB:ljw
07-109.ljw

The integrity of the Silver Hand Program depends on the permit holders using the tags and labels in accordance with AS 45.65.010-45.65.070 and 3AAC 58.005-.900.

Unlawful use of the Silver Hand identification should be reported to ASCA immediately.

DEFINITIONS

"Authentic Native handicraft": an article made in the state, which is composed wholly, or in significant part, of natural materials, and which is produced, decorated or fashioned by an Alaska Native.

"Native": a resident having not less than one-quarter Eskimo, Aleut, or Indian blood. (American Indians whose tribes are Indian to other states are not eligible for this prog

"Natural material": material produced or existing in nature, not artificial or manufactured, and derived from lands, plants, animals or other natural resources.

"State resident" (AS43.23.095) means an individual who is physically present in the state with the intent to remain indefinitely in the state under the requirements of AS 1.10.055.

PENALTIES FOR MISUSE OF THE SILVER HAND IDENTIFICATION LABEL OR PERMIT

Sec. 45.65.060.

- (a) A person who knowingly or willfully issues the document for or affixes or attaches the identification label provided for in this chapter to an article, knowing that it is not an authentic Native handicraft, is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.
- (b) A person who knowingly or willfully sells or offers for sale an article with the label affixed or attached, knowing that it is not an authentic Native handicraft, is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.
- (c) A person who knowingly or willfully alters, changes, or counterfeits an identification label or emblem, is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.
- (d) A person who has been issued a permit under AS 45.65.030(a) is guilty of a class B misdemeanor if the person knowingly or willfully issues a permit for an article that is not an authentic Alaska Native Handicraft.

REVOCAION AND DEBARMENT

Sec. 3 AAC 58.075

(a) The permit of a person authorized to use the Silver Hand label or the Made In Alaska emblem or to act as an agent for either the Silver Hand or the Made In Alaska program who is convicted of an offense under AS 45.65.060 is automatically revoked on the date of the conviction.

(b) Any person who is convicted of an offense under AS 45.65.060 is barred from any further participation in either the Silver Hand or the Made in Alaska program.

(c) After notice and opportunity for hearing, the Council will, in the Council's discretion, revoke a permit for failure to comply with the requirements of AS 45.65.010 - 45.65.070 including the payment of fees, and this chapter.

TO DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION

Go to the ASCA website www.eed.state.ak.us to download and application to fill out by hand.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please direct questions concerning the Silver Hand Permit Program to ASCA. Alaskan artists may also be eligible for the Made in Alaska Program. For more information on Made in Alaska call 907/272-5634.

SILVER HAND PERMIT APPLICATION



ALASKA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS
411 West 4th Avenue, Suite 1E
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2343
Tel: (907)269-6610
Fax: (907)269-6601
Toll Free in Alaska: 1-888-278-7424
TTY: 1-800-770-8973
Email: aksca_info@eed.state.ak.us
Website: www.eed.state.ak.us/aksca

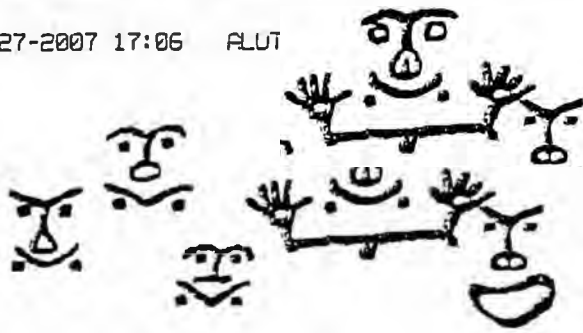
SILVER HAND - SB 97



This symbol is your guarantee that this is a genuine article, made in Alaska, handcrafted and finished by an Alaska Native artist or craftsman.

Artist
Origin
Permit No.





Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository

215 Mission Road, Suite 101, Kodiak, Alaska 99615
(907) 486-7004 Fax: (907) 486-7048 www.alutiiqmuseum.com

Senator Gary Stevens
Legislative Session Contact
State Capitol, Room 103
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

February 27, 2007

Dear Senator Gary Stevens,

I am writing to express my sincere support for SB97. This proposed draft statutes reflects an exhaustive survey, many discussions, and testimony's by Alaska Native artists about their needs in supporting and protecting Alaskan Native arts. SB97 language represents years of primary stakeholder feedback in the only state endorsed Alaska Native arts authentication program, the Silver Hand. With no cost to the state, SB97 accomplishes many critical objectives in serving a statewide constituency.

This bill establishes a relationship between Silver Hand permit holders and the Alaska State Council on the Arts, the program's administering state agency. The bill links the Silver Hand permit program to State of Alaska consumer protection and fair trade law. It also helps to strengthen agency enforcement capability's and clarifies consumer and permit holder protections. SB97 expands economic and creative opportunities for artists by including contemporary Alaska Native artists as important constituents served by the permit program. The bill allows Alaska Native artists to use all material deemed important in the creation of their art and clarifies eligible visual art mediums.

SB97 also enables Federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes to identify eligible permit holders. SB97 aligns with Federal language established in the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990. SB97 empowers the state to promote and protect Silver Hand permit holders who's work represents a very significant, yet quiet, contribution to statewide commerce.

I want to thank you for updating the statutes with SB97. While this may seem like a very small act it will help the Alaska State Council on the Arts support and protect Alaska Native Artists artwork.

Quyanaasinaq, "thank you very much"

Sven Haakanson Jr., Ph.D.
Executive Director
Alutiiq Museum

Perry R Eaton
12000 Shenandoah Road
Anchorage Alaska 99516
(907) 345- 0281

Senator Gary Stevens
State Capitol, Room 103
Juneau, Alaska 99801
By fax: (9097) 465-3517

March 1, 2007

Dear Senator Stevens,

Gary, this is just a short note to let you know that I am 110% in support of SB97; the "modernization" of the Silver Hand program. What you have in front of you is the result of very diligent and solid work on the part of the Alaska State Council on the Arts in collaboration with the states Native artists. The revisions bring to the program the opportunity to be much more effective and responsive to the needs of today's Native artist, while adding no financial burden to the state.

Of all the changes proposed, I am particularly pleased with the fact that the Federally Recognized Tribes identify the eligible participants. This eliminates any specter of paternalism, removes a large administrative burden from staff, and builds on synergistic activities of other Federal and State programs and organizations.

All in all, it's a great piece of work and I strongly encourage your support to move the bill.

Perry R Eaton

110 Nicholoff Way
P.O. Box 322
Cordova Alaska 99574



ph 907.424.7903 fax 907.424.3018

Museum and Gift Gallery of the Prince William Sound, Copper River Delta and Gulf of Alaska Natives

Senator Gary Stevens
Legislative Session Contact:
State Capitol, Room 103
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
907-465-4925
fax: 907-465-3517

March 2, 2007

Dear Senator Gary Stevens,

As Director of a federally recognized tribe's Cultural Center, I would like to express my support for SB97. This is a much needed update to the respected Silver Hand program.

Our cultural center's mission is to preserve our heritage through teaching and exhibiting traditional art and skills. We accomplish this through traditional art and skills classes and the gift shop which provides a sales venue for quality produced pieces. The silver hand program has been valuable to us as authentication of our tribal artists and to help us identify the work of other native artists throughout the state. We are very aware of the confusion deceptive marketing and sales practices can create around Native-made arts and crafts and support every effort to protect authentic Alaska native art.

As a member of the Museums Alaska board of directors, I have been aware of the statewide need for revisions and some of the tremendous amount of work that has gone into these recommendations for revision through SB97. I strongly urge you to see this bill through.

Quana (Thank you!)

LaRue Barnes
Director Ilanka Cultural Center

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Senator Gary Stevens
 State Capitol, Room 103
 Juneau, AK 99801-1182

March 5, 2007

Dear Senator Stevens,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill SB97 that would introduce modernizations to the Silver Hand Program and which represents a thorough analysis and synthesis of needs voiced by Alaska Native artists and the expertise of Alaska State Council on the Arts. The comprehensive and collaborative nature of the revisions ensures that proposed changes will increase the both the effectiveness of the Program and the degree to which it serves Alaska Native artists. At the same time, the revisions, particularly the strengthened enforcement of the Program, will improve the economic welfare of the artists and their families, while improving their economic contribution to the state.

Sincerely,

Dawn Biddison
 Assistant Curator
 Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center
 Alaska Regional Office
 121 W. 7th Ave.
 Anchorage, AK 99501
 Tel: 907-343-6131
 Fax: 907-343-6130
 biddisondd@ci.anchorage.ak.us

ARCTIC STUDIES CENTER
 Department of Anthropology
 10th and Constitution N.W.
 Washington DC 20560-0112
 (202) 357-2682 Telephone
 (202) 357-2684 Fax



Smithsonian
 National Museum of Natural History

ARCTIC STUDIES CENTER
 at the Rasmuson Center
 121 W. 7th Ave.
 Anchorage, AK 99501
 (907) 343-6131 Telephone
 (907) 343-6130 Fax

5

NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Inupiat Heritage Center
5421 North Star Street
PO Box 69
(907) 852-0422
(907) 852-4224 Fax
(907) 852-4594



March 5, 2007

Senator Gary Stevens
State Capitol, Room 103
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Stevens:

I am writing to express my support for SB97, a bill which links the Silver Hand permit program to the State of Alaska consumer protection and fair trade law.

Passage of this bill is extremely important as it will help strengthen agency enforcement capability and clarify consumer and permit holder protection. This bill will also help expand economic and creative opportunities for Alaska Native artists. Most importantly SB97 will help align with Federal language established in the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990 and empower the state to promote and protect Silver hand permit holders.

Alaska Natives contribute significantly to statewide commerce and I strongly encourage your support to move the bill. Quyanaq.

Sincerely,

Dorcas Stein, Coordinator
Inupiat Heritage Center

cc: Commissioners, Inupiat History, Language and Culture, North Slope Borough

March 6, 2007

Senator Gary Stevens
Legislative Session Contact:
State Capitol, Room 103
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
907-465-4925
fax: 907-465-3517

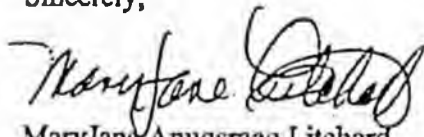
Dear Senator Gary Stevens,

The Bering Strait Inuit Council (BSIC) is highly supportive of SB97, which would help modernize the Silver Hand Program. Our small group supports regional artists in the Northwest Territory of Alaska for the survival of unique art forms to continue for future generations. BSIC has members who are federally recognized as indigenous groups. Silver Hand Members include Siberian Yupik, Yupik and Inupiaq artists from our region.

Our regional indigenous artists depend on this program to prove the authenticity of their handmade products. We desperately need to be protected from unauthorized imitations of our style of art. Our art helps to connect us to our cultural roots of successful survival in this northern hemisphere. Our ancestors struggled throughout the winter months yet created unique carvings that linked them to spiritual survival. We still depend on subsistence activities, and the arts and crafts we create for economic development. With the continuing rising costs of modern living and the threats of coastal erosions, our artists need this protection from this proposed bill.

We look forward to working with the Alaska State Council on the Arts to bring this program into the 21st century.

Sincerely,



MaryJane Anuqsraaq Litchard
President
Bering Strait Inuit Council
P.O. Box 948
Nome, Alaska 99762
(907) 443-4248
(907) 443-4449



ALASKA
NATIVE
HERITAGE
CENTER

March 6, 2007

Senator Gary Stevens
State Capitol, Room 103
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

fax: 907-465-3517

Dear Senator Stevens:


We at the Alaska Native Heritage Center are in full support of SB97. This bill is based on surveys, discussions, and testimony in the Alaska Native arts community and builds upon a Native Artists Summit held at AFN in October 2007. At no cost to the state, SB97 accomplishes many critical objectives in serving artists statewide.

Among the bill's strengths:

- It establishes a relationship between Silver Hand permit holders and the Alaska State Council on the Arts, who administers the program.
- Critically important, it links the Silver Hand permit program to State of Alaska consumer protection and fair trade laws.
- It expands the definition of Native art to include contemporary works, which constitute a huge contribution to our state's economy and culture.
- It allows Alaska Native artists to use all materials – not just those termed "traditional" that are important in the creation of their art.
- It aligns with Federal language established in the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990.
- Most importantly, it serves the needs of Alaska Native artists throughout the state.

I join many others in the Native community in support of this bill and thank you for your support as well.

Chin'an ("Thank you"),


Jonathan Ross, MBA
President and CEO

From: gary murphy [eskimogary@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2007 7:34 PM
To: Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: Support Bill SB97

Senator Stevens, Please support Bill 197 . I am a Alaskan Native artist and fully support bill SB97. Sincerely Yours Gary R. Murphy

From: Sen. Gary Stevens
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2007 9:10 AM
To: Tim Lamkin
Subject: FW: SB97 Silver Hand retooling

-----Original Message-----

From: Teri Rofkar [mailto:ravenart@gci.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2007 9:51 PM
To: Sen. Gary Stevens; Saunders McNeill; Charlotte Fox
Subject: SB97 Silver Hand retooling

Hello Gary Stevens,

Thank you for sponsoring this bill to retool the Silver Hand program. As a full time Native Artist, I am delighted to see some updated laws to fuel an economic opportunity throughout the state of Alaska. Money earned through the Native Arts most of the time contributes to a healthier financial profile for small villages, as well as the larger tourist hubs. I sat on the ASAC task force, and we are intentionally moving away from authenticating the art, which is vague and hard to enforce... while we move toward authenticating the Artists, by using existing protocols.

Streamlining the authentication process will help as we work towards tackling the big problem of counterfeit native art. A bill like this will bring us in line with Federal Laws. A recent article in AARP said that "up to half of the Native Crafts (sold in the US) are counterfeit"

stated Jill Moran, of the US Dept. of the Interior Indian Arts and Crafts Board... This problem is a national issue, and Alaskans, because of our self sufficient and CAN DO attitude are a front runner in finding creative solutions. The Silver Hand program is part of that solution.

Thank you again for taking the first step.

Gunalcheesh, Ho, Ho,

Teri Rofkar
820 Charles St.
Sitka, AK 99835

From: Gale Parsons [mailto:gparsons@prattmuseum.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2007 11:16 AM
To: Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: Senate Bill SB97

7 March 2007

Dear Senator Stevens and Representative LeDoux,

Thank you for crafting Senate Bill (SB97) and companion House Bill (HB161) to update the Silver Hand program statutes. The proposed changes represent long requested and important improvements to this program for Alaska Native artists. As an artist and Exhibits Director of the Pratt Museum in Homer I have been aware of the program, its importance and inadequacies since arriving in Alaska 28 years ago or since the beginning of the program. I have worked closely with Alaska Native artists through my work at the Pratt beginning in 1995 and understand the frustrations outlined in the comments below that the Bills address.

1. Establish a primary service relationship between Silver Hand artists and the Alaska State Council on the Arts. The agent arm of the permit program will be removed.
2. Strengthen enforcement capability by linking Silver Hand statues to Alaska consumer protection and fair trade practices statutes. Civil penalties for the misuse of the Silver Hand emblem will be added. Aligns with Federal language established in the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990.
3. Expand economic and creative opportunities by including contemporary Alaska Native artists and the materials deemed important in the creation of their. The statutes expand the definitions section and define eligible visual art mediums.
4. Enable Federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes and ANCSA to identify eligible permit holders. Reference to blood quantum will be removed.
5. Empowers the state to promote and protect Silver Hand permit artists who's work represents a very significant economic contribution to the state.

Thank you for addressing this need.

Sincerely,

Gale Parsons

Gale Parsons, Director of Exhibits
Pratt Museum
3779 Bartlett Street
Homer, AK 99603
907-235-8635 x 36

From: Vera Crews [mailto:consult@veracrews.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2007 1:52 PM
To: Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: SB167

Please support SB 167 – which is meeting at the same time as I'm writing this, I think
it should accomplish these things:

1. Establish a primary service relationship between Silver Hand artists and the Alaska State Council on the Arts. The agent arm of the permit program will be removed.
2. Strengthen enforcement capability by linking Silver Hand statutes to Alaska consumer protection and fair trade practices statutes. Civil penalties for the misuse of the Silver Hand emblem will be added. Aligns with Federal language established in the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990.
3. Expand economic and creative opportunities by including contemporary Alaska Native artists and the materials deemed important in the creation of their. The statutes expand the definitions section and define eligible visual art mediums.
4. Enable Federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes and ANCSA to identify eligible permit holders. Reference to blood quantum will be removed.
5. Empowers the state to promote and protect Silver Hand permit artists who's work represents a very significant economic contribution to the state.

Thanks you,
Vera Crews, Anchorage
Alaska State Council on the Arts

David Greisen

From: Teri Rofkar [ravenart@gci.net]
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2007 12:28 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: SB97 Silver Hand program

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Good Afternoon Bert,

I would like to add my voice of support to those folks retooling the Silver Hand program. As a full time Native Artist, I am delighted to see some updated laws to fuel an economic opportunity throughout the state of Alaska. Money earned through the Native Arts most of the time contributes to a healthier financial profile for small villages, as well as the larger tourist hubs. I sat on the ASAC task force, and we are intentionally moving away from authenticating the art, which is vague and hard to enforce... while we move toward authenticating the Artists, by using existing protocols.

Streamlining the authentication process will help as we work towards tackling the big problem of counterfeit native art. A bill like this will bring us in line with Federal Laws. A recent article in AARP said that "up to half of the Native Crafts (sold in the US) are counterfeit"

stated Jill Moran, of the US Dept. of the Interior Indian Arts and Crafts Board... This problem is a national issue, and Alaskans , because of our self sufficient and CAN DO attitude are a front runner in finding creative solutions. The Silver Hand program is part of that solution.

Thank you for all of the work that you put in during sessions, out of sessions, my goodness I would just be exhausted!

If you have any concerns or questions please don't hesitate to contact me. My cell is 907-738-0629 or you can e-mail me.

Hang in there, and thanks for everything,

Teri Rofkar
820 Charles St.
Sitka, Ak 99835

David Greisen

From: Jan Steinbright [tugboat@gci.net]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2007 5:42 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: support SB97

Senator Stedman:

Plases support the Silver Hand program SB 97. I have worked with Alaska Native art and artists for over 25 years and feel this is a most important bill which will give our artists some means of proving authenticity and help eliminate the barrage of fake Alaska Native art frequenting our gallery shelves.

Jan Steinbright
Assistant Director, Alaska Native Studies
Sheldon Jackson College
Sitka

David Greisen

From: Beckie Etnukeok [BEtnukeok@alaskanative.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2007 9:09 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Charlie Huggins
Cc: Sen. Kim Elton; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Fred Dyson
Subject: alaska native silver hand bill

I am supporting hb 161 and sb97

As an Alaska native artist for over 30 years, I have seen a lot of change. We need this change to protect our works to produce necessary income for our families. Thank you for our time and consideration. Beckie Etnukeok

David Greisen

From: Harold G. Campbell [ghoo_see_taan@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2007 12:40 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: SB97

I am writing today to solicit
support for SB 97

I am a 52 yo. Tlingit artist and Silver Hand participant for over 5 years
SB97 addresses to limitations of the Silver Hand program that has been an issue for many
Alaskan Native artists.

Please vote for SB97 and I will support you.

Kusitaan; Geoffrey Campbell
19040 1st ST, Eagle River, AK 99577

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<http://tools.search.yahoo.com/toolbar/features/mail/>

David Greisen

From: micky becker [becker@gci.net]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2007 9:49 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Kim Elton; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Fred Dyson
Subject: Support for SE 97

Dear Senators,

This email is to express my support for the "Silver Hand Bill" -- SB 97. The Alaska State Council on the Arts has worked hard to make this a bill that truly benefits the Alaska Native artisans. As a member of the Council, I urge your support/passage of this bill. Specifically, the bill accomplishes, in brief, the following:

1. Establish a primary service relationship between Silver Hand artists and the Alaska State Council on the Arts. The agent arm will be retired.
2. Strengthen enforcement capability by linking Silver Hand statues to Alaska consumer protection and fair trade practices statutes. Civil penalties for the misuse of the Silver Hand emblem will be added. The new statutes align with Federal language established in the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990.
3. Expand economic and creative opportunities by including contemporary Alaska Native artists and allowing any material Alaska Native artists want to use in the creation of their work. The statutes expand the definitions section and define eligible visual art mediums.
4. Reference to blood quantum will be removed. Federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes and ANCSA designated tribes already identify their respective tribal members which will help determine eligible permit holders. This government to government relationship respects the tribes determination of members. All of these changes empower the state to promote and protect Silver Hand permit artists whose work represents a very significant economic contribution to the state.

Thank you!

Adelheid "Micky" Becker
907 274-6144

**SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT
First Committee of Referral**

DATE: 2/26/07

FURTHER: Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: 3/1/07
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 3/13/07

Labor and Commerce Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 97

SB 97 ALASKA NATIVE ART IDENTIFICATION SEALS

"An Act relating to identification seals for certain articles created or crafted in the state by Alaska Native persons; relating to the Alaska State Council on the Arts; and making certain identification seal violations unfair trade practices."

and recommends:

- 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
<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#
EDUCATION	3/8/07			✓	1

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
	Sunde	✓			
	DAVIS	✓			
	FREEMAN	X			
CHAIR:	ELLIS	X			