

HB

19



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Anna Fairclough – House District 17

House Bill 19

“An Act exempting the state and its political subdivisions from daylight saving time.”

In direct response to a number of concerns raised by my constituents and various groups, such as K-12 educators, the elderly, northwestern rural communities, and others, we have been researching the possible repeal of Daylight Saving Time (DST) in Alaska.

It is clear, from two statewide polls done in 2004 and '05, that a strong majority of Alaskan's statewide favor the repeal of DST for a variety of reasons. As most of you know, in 1983, with congressional approval, Alaska consolidated its five time zones into two. This was done to better consolidate our communities and to enable better public services.

Alaska Standard Time (AST) now covers most of our state, with only a few Aleutian Islands in the other time zone. AST is one hour earlier than Pacific Standard Time and four hours earlier than Eastern Standard Time.

Daylight Saving Time was actually an idea that originated as an American domestic policy during World War I to save energy.

I urge your support on this piece of Legislation

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FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: HB 19
 (H) Publish Date: 3/13/09

Identifier (file name): HB019-GOV-OMB-3-02-09 Dept. Affected: All
 Title Exempting state from daylight savings time RDU _____
 Sponsor Rep. Fairclough Component _____
 Requester House Community and Regional Affairs Committee Component Number _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2010	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
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

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES								
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()								
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 2010	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
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

Estimate of any current year (FY2009) cost: _____

POSITIONS

	FY 2010	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation will not have a significant fiscal impact on any State agency.

Prepared by: Jack Kreinheder, Senior Analyst
 Division: Office of Management and Budget
 Approved by: Karen Rehfeld, Director
Office of Management and Budget

Phone 465-4676
 Date/Time 3/2/09 11:45 AM
 Date 3/2/2009

TESTIMONY TO SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REGARDING HOUSE
BILL 19 – REPEAL OF DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME IN ALASKA

Date: April 8, 2009

To: Senate State Affairs Committee

From: Lynn Willis, 10140 Hillcrest Lane, Eagle River, Alaska 99577

Phone: 907-726-0834

Representing: Self

Dear Committee Members,

For the sixth time since 1999 a bill to end the use of Daylight Saving Time (DST) is before the Legislature. I urge you to support this bill, HB 19, before the Senate State Affairs Committee and to further to support an open debate and resolution of this issue before the entire Senate.

A compelling reason to use DST in Alaska may once have existed when business communications technology was primitive compared to that available today; when Alaska had five time zones and the State Capital was permanently two hours ahead of the populace residing in the South Central region and three hours from the Bering Sea region; when every part of Alaska except the Western Aleutians had not been combined into a common time zone that is permanently one hour behind the Pacific Time Zone; and when Alaska did not do business with nations of the Pacific rim such as Japan and China where DST is not used.

The Federal Government recognizes energy saving as compelling reason to use Daylight Saving. Recent testimony could not illicit any information that shows a benefit to Alaskans in reduced energy costs by observing DST in Alaska.

I have certainly felt the frustration over the past decade as this legislation was repeatedly stymied by individual legislators for motives that were never explained except in the case of SB 120 which was held for two sessions of the 24th Legislature without a single hearing allowed before the State Labor and Commerce Committee.

TESTIMONY TO SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REGARDING HOUSE
BILL 19 – REPEAL OF DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME IN ALASKA

Anchorage Television Station KTUU reported on August 29, 2006: “Sen. Con Bunde, who let the bill languish in his labor and commerce committee says that eliminating daylight- saving time is a dumb idea. He says managers of the Alaska Permanent Fund go into work at 4 a.m. as it is in order to keep abreast of developments on the East Coast, and eliminating daylight saving time would create an extra hour of discrepancy during part of the year. While some statewide polls have shown a majority in favor of doing away with it, Bunde says that’s not the case in his district”.

From Sen. Bunde’s explanation I challenge you to cite a compelling reason to keep using DST in Alaska and force every man woman and child in Alaska to be impacted. Currently I work a swing shift and am off work at 2:30a.m. Perhaps I should be asking you to force every Alaskan to support my work schedule and that of the company I work for by making all Alaskans adopt to a new time of day twice each year.

Despite its innocuous appearance Daylight Saving is actually a very invasive law. It is not just about “changing clocks”. I have to change clocks every time the power goes out. However, when the power goes out, the time of sunset and sunrise does not change. Every Alaskan, regardless of age or location who resides in the Alaskan Time Zone, is directly impacted by this government fiat twice each year. No person can simply ignore a change of local time or have the time of sunrise and sunset instantly change and not be impacted to some degree. Now after some 40 years of use in Alaska, time has come for you to search for a clear and compelling reason to keep this law. Do not let the opponents of HB 19 force you to give them a reason to get rid of this law – make them give you a compelling reason to keep it. Please don’t entertain their plea to keep using DST pending more information. They have used legislative maneuvering since 1999 to keep DST in Alaska and now it is time for them to make their point. I contend that personal convenience is not a compelling reason for me to be subjected to any law. I have no financial interest in this law. I simply ask to be left alone and would remind you that my right to privacy is recognized in the Alaska Constitution.

TESTIMONY TO SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REGARDING HOUSE
BILL 19 – REPEAL OF DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME IN ALASKA

I have created a web site to present the case for repeal of Daylight Saving Time in Alaska: www.endalaskadst.com . In that website I cite a number of reasons we can now stop using DST in Alaska:

18 REASONS WE CAN NOW QUIT USING DST IN ALASKA

1. Alaskan's live in " The land of the Midnight Sun".
2. Instant time change disturbs sleep patterns which creates a state sponsored "jet lag" twice each year.
3. There is no longer a compelling need to impact every Alaskan twice each year with this law.
4. With creation of the single Alaskan Time Zone in 1983 most of Alaska went on permanent DST.
5. The 1983 time zone change advanced clocks permanently in two of the three Alaskan time zones affected. Now when we advance clocks each year, we create "double" and even "triple" DST in most of Alaska which causes a two hour difference between "sun time" and "clock time" in the rail belt region including Fairbanks and Anchorage and three hours in Western Alaska communities and villages.
6. What savings of daylight? For every hour you gain in evening daylight, you lose an hour of morning light.
7. We gain daylight rapidly in springtime Alaska without DST. According to the (Naval Observatory), rounding to the nearest half hour, both Anchorage and Fairbanks have gained one hour of natural daylight within 8 days of the onset of DST.
8. Advances in communication technology now allow business and personal contact 24/7 to anywhere in the nation or world.
9. Alaska will be in a different time zone with or without DST.
10. Alaska now does business with the Pacific Far East where DST is not used.
11. No Alaskan Utility claims a savings of energy by use of DST. Saving Energy is why the Federal Government allows DST in those states that choose to use DST.
12. (Scientific American March 2009) A portion of Indiana recently went on DST. That portion experienced 1% increase in residential electrical use due to air conditioning increase use when time of sunset delayed.
13. (New England Journal of Medicine 2008) Sweden, a northern latitude populace, experienced 5% increase in myocardial infarction (heart attack) rate in days following onset of DST. This is attributed to disturbance in sleep patterns.
14. Daylight Saving Time is not practiced in every State or Canadian Province. Hawaii and Arizona don't use DST. Saskatchewan has adopted Central Standard Time for year round use.
15. Changing every time keeping device in homes and businesses, including indoor mechanical heating/cooling/security systems, is expensive and time consuming. Link to story about the cost of this. Chrysler scraps clock changing
16. The Legislature cannot control the ocean tides for fishermen, nor the weather that will impact outdoor activity.
17. DST doesn't affect the many devices now using photoelectric sensors that respond to ambient light, not the time of day.
18. Thousands of Alaskans signed a petition asking to vote on this issue and polling data from Dittman Research and Hellenthal & Associates shows majority of Alaskans would support ending DST use in Alaska.

Thank you for your time and interest. Lynn Willis

April 07, 2009

Senator Linda Menard, Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee
State Capitol Room 09
Juneau, AK 99801

Chair Menard and Members of the Senate State Affairs Committee

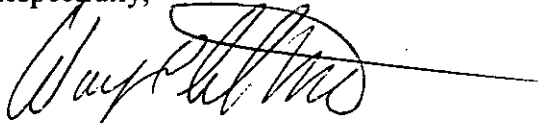
The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce believes there will be unforeseen economic difficulties associated with passage of HB 19. The State Chamber supports any proposal to eliminate Daylight Savings Time (DST) at the Federal level, as a federal change would uniformly maintain the current differentiation in time zones across the United States.

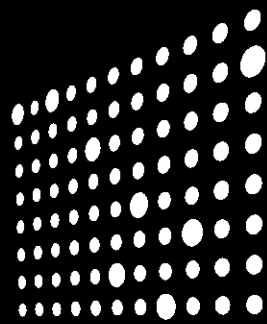
Passage of HB 19 should be delayed until thorough exploration of the economic effects on Alaska's businesses can be provided. Many of the state's businesses and industries conduct business with contiguous US companies. Eliminating DST in Alaska will likely disadvantage Alaskan businesses by reducing the number of hours to interface with business partners, advisors, customers and suppliers for a substantial portion of the calendar year. Private sector finance communities, the Alaska Permanent Fund, along with state and local financial entities are obviously affected. Many private companies with east coast and mid-west operations would be negatively affected by increasing the difference in time zone through elimination of DST.

Digital technology, which already incorporates DST time changes, would need additional programming for Alaskan residents. Current technology would not be synchronized with other states. This is particularly evident with software such as Windows and other calendaring programs that uniformly distribute across the US. It is important that Alaskans be assured that vendors will be willing to provide program patches in a timely manner to all equipment and devices—be it cell phones, PDAs, medical equipment or computer operating systems—that have been programmed to adjust automatically their internal clocks to match the time changes to DST.

For the aforementioned reasons, the Alaska State Chamber of commerce does not support HB 19. We would support a federal elimination of DST thus leveling all states equally and allowing Alaska to take advantage of any health benefit through elimination of DST.

Respectfully,


Wayne A. Stevens
President/CEO



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