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# Senator Linda Menard

**Session**  
State Capitol, Room 9  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Phone: (907) 465-6600  
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**Interim**  
600 E. Railroad Ave.  
Wasilla, Alaska 99654  
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## Alaska State Legislature



February 1, 2010

To: Sen. Menard, Sarah Munson

From: Sen. Linda Menard, Michael Rovito

Re: Hearing Request for SB 43

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Dear Sen. Menard and Ms. Sarah Munson,

This letter is to request a hearing for Senate Bill 43, an act adding a second verse to the Alaska Flag Song.

In this packet, you'll find my sponsor statement, a recent version of the bill, some back up material and a list of known witnesses.

Please don't hesitate to contact either my aide Michael Rovito or me with questions.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Menard".

Sen. Linda Menard

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### Senate Bill 43 Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 43 will add a second verse to the Alaska Flag Song, finally giving recognition to the history of the state flag and the contributions of the wonderful Native community.

Written by the late **Carol Beery Davis**, the second verse of Alaska's Flag Song adds **12 lines** and pays tribute to not only the aforementioned subjects but, indirectly, to the young lad who designed the flag: **Benny Benson**. Benson, of course, came up with the **eventual design** of Alaska's flag, the **Big Dipper and North Star** against a **dark blue background**.

After Davis wrote the **second verse** she gifted the **words** to the **University of Alaska Foundation** in **1987**. This bill will effectively pull the second verse of Alaska's Flag Song from **obscurity** and bring it to the forefront of this great state's **heritage**.

Already, **Fran Ulmer**, the **chancellor of the University of Alaska**, has endorsed **Senate Bill 43**. Ulmer, who introduced a **similar bill** when she was in the **Legislature**, summed up a major intent of **my legislation**: the first verse of the song did not recognize the **contributions Alaska Native people have made to the state**. The bill sailed through the House of Representatives, but stalled in the Senate.

The Senate had the chance to hear the Flag Song performed with both versus as we **gaveled in** on the first day of session this year. I think we can all agree the **second verse not only added a special touch**, but highlighted **music teachers' desire** to have a second verse to **teach their choirs**.

Please join me in supporting a long overdue addition of a second verse to Alaska's Flag Song.

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
 Bill Version: SB 43  
 (S) Publish Date: 1/29/10

Identifier (file name): SB043-GOV-OMB-1-26-10 Dept. Affected: All  
 Title Adding a second verse to the official Alaska state song RDU \_\_\_\_\_  
 Component \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor Sen. Menard  
 Requester Sen. Community & Regional Affairs Committee Component Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2011	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>								
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>								
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF								
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2010) cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITIONS**

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 1/26/09 9:35 AM  
 Date 1/26/2009

Dear Senator Menard,

I am delighted that you are proposing the second verse of the Alaska Flag song be adopted by the state as part of the official state song. I introduced that legislation many years ago; it passed the House but stalled in the Senate. I have long felt it important that both verses be sung on all occasions. Alaska Poet Laureate Carol Berry Davis wrote the second verse because she felt that the first verse did not recognize the contributions that Alaska Native people have made to our state. She asked me to introduce the bill, which I did and there were many people who supported it.

Years ago Carol Berry Davis gave the second verse to the University. I am not sure what rules might apply to the copyright. I am happy to have my staff look into this and help you with whatever contacts or permission is necessary in order to pursue this legislation.

Thank you so much for your work promoting the adoption of the second verse of the Alaska Flag song.

Best regards,  
Fran Ulmer  
Chancellor

Benny Benson chose the background color of the flag to represent both the blue sky and the forget-me-not. The Legislature later named the forget-me-not as the official State flower. This provides another symbolic link, one between the official State flag, the official song and the official flower.

Carol Beery Davis, a longtime Juneau resident and musician, wrote a second verse to the Alaska Flag song and gifted the words (protected by copyright) to the University of Alaska Foundation in February 1987. It has been unsuccessfully proposed as an addition to the official lyrics twice. The last time, in 2002, House Bill 285 sought to officially incorporate Davis' second verse into the Alaska state song. The bill passed the Alaska House, but it died in the Senate. Because of the copyright restrictions, it is not shown here. Instead, a link to it and more detailed information is provided at the bottom of the page

*Source: Wikipedia*

## "Alaska's Flag"

Written by Marie Drake  
Composed by Elinor Dusenbury

Adopted on February 23 1955.

[Sheet Music](#) | [MIDI Tune](#) | [Realaudio Song](#)

### 1st Verse of Alaska's Flag Song

Eight stars of gold on a field of blue,  
Alaska's flag, may it mean to you,  
The blue of the sea, the evening sky,  
The mountain lakes and the flowers nearby,  
The gold of the early sourdough's dreams,  
The precious gold of the hills and streams,  
The brilliant stars in the northern sky,  
The "Bear," the "Dipper," and shining high,  
The great North Star with its steady light,  
O'er land and sea a beacon bright,  
Alaska's flag to Alaskans dear,  
The simple flag of a last frontier.

### 2nd Verse of Alaska's Flag Song -- Words by Carol Beery Davis

A Native lad chose the Dipper's stars  
For Alaska's flag that there be no bars  
Among our culture. Let it be known  
Through years the Native's past has grown  
To share life's treasures, hand in hand,  
To keep Alaska our Great-Land;  
We love the northern midnight sky,  
The mountains, lakes and streams nearby.  
The great North Star with its steady light  
Will guide all cultures, clear and bright,  
With nature's flag to Alaskans dear,  
The simple flag of the last frontier.

• *Source* : *Alaska Blue Book 1993-94*, 11th ed., Juneau, Department of Education, Division of State Libraries, Archives &

## Origin of Song:

The words to the song Alaska's Flag were written by Marie Drake, The Territorial Legislature adopted Alaska's Flag as Alaska's official song in 1955.

"Alaska's Flag" written by Marie Drake a long-time employee of the Alaska Department of Education, and set to music composed by Elinor Dusenbury, who husband was commander of Chilkoot Barracks at Haines from 1933 to 1936 was adopted as the official state song in 1955, and was gifted to the University of Alaska in April 1960. Carol Beery Davis wrote the second verse to "Alaska's Flag" and gifted the words (protected by copyright) to the University of Alaska Foundation in February 1987.

Carol Beery Davis, an Alaskan pioneer and poet laureate, as the maker of the second verse. While the official Alaska state song recognizes and describes Alaska's flag, the words of Davis in the second verse of "Alaska's Flag", "A Native lad chose the Dipper's stars, For Alaska's flag that there be no bars", provides recognition of Bennie Benson who designed Alaska's official flag in 1927. Benny Benson described his design of the flag:

"The blue field is for the Alaska Sky and the forget-me-not, an Alaskan flower. The North Star is for the future of Alaska, the most northerly in the union. The Dipper is for the Great Bear - symbolizing strength."

### Marie Drake:

Marie Drake, author of the words to *Alaska's Flag*, the state song, was born February 11, 1888. In 1907 she married James Drake in Van Wert, Ohio, where she was engaged in social work with the Y.W.C.A. and the Red

Museums.

- Copyright for *Alaska's Flag* is held by the University of Alaska. For further information contact the University Archivist at the Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-6808.
- Verse 2 by Carol Beery Davis. 1986.

Cross. They came to Alaska when her husband was assigned to work with the Bureau of Public Roads. In 1917, Lester Henderson was appointed first commissioner of education, and he hired Marie Drake as his secretary. She remained with the Department for 28 years, retiring July 1, 1945.

Marie Drake assumed the post of assistant commissioner of education in 1934. She edited and wrote most of the material for the department's *School Bulletin*, that was circulated throughout the territorial school system. The poem that later provided the words for the official state song first appeared on the cover of the October 1935 *School Bulletin*. In recognition of her devotion to the young people of Alaska, Marie Drake received an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from the University of Alaska in 1958. She died March 5, 1963.

• Source : *Alaska Blue Book 1993-94, 11th ed., Juneau, Department of Education, Division of State Libraries, Archives & Museums*

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## Alaska State Legislature

Senate Bill 43, individuals giving testimony:

In-person:

Constance Davis (for sure)

Others likely

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 1/29/10

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 2/9/10

State Affairs Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 43

SB 43 SECOND VERSE OF ALASKA'S STATE SONG

"An Act adding a second verse to the official Alaska state song."

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

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**HOUSE BILL:**  
 Same Title  
 Technical Title Change  
 New Title w/ SCR # \_\_\_\_\_

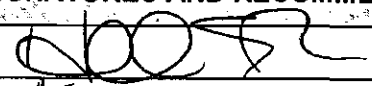
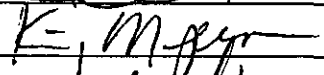
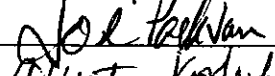
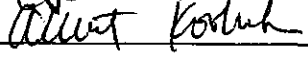

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
PAI	01/26/09			X	1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	French	X			
	Meyer	X			
	PASKIN	X			
	KOOKESH	X			
CHAIR: 	MENARD	X			