

LEG. FINANCE - BILLS 1985 - 1986 2376

SSH B 212 - HB 215 2376

Offered: 3/13/85
Referred: Finance

Lery

Original sponsors: Koponen, Clocksin,
Duncan, et al

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 212 (HESS)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to eligibility for longevity bonus
7 payments and the use of longevity bonus payments in
8 determining adult public assistance; and providing
9 for an effective date."

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

11 * Section 1. AS 47.45.070 is amended to read:

12 Sec. 47.45.070. UNQUALIFIED PERSONS. An unqualified person is
13 one who

14 (1) does not meet the age or residence requirements as
15 provided for under this chapter;

16 (2) meets the age and residence requirements of this chap-
17 ter but either is confined in a state or federal mental health insti-
18 tution or facility and is certified by the state as unable to manage
19 personal affairs, or resides in a nursing home as that term is defined
20 in AS 08.70.180; however, if that person, at the time of commitment or
21 commencement of residence, provided the principal support of a spouse,
22 the commissioner of administration may determine to pay the confined
23 person's bonus to the person's spouse until the spouse is qualified
24 for a bonus;

25 (3) is otherwise qualified but confined in a penal or
26 correctional institution or facility; upon completion of sentence or
27 upon the conferral of a pardon, parole or probation, the person may
28 make application; confinement outside the state shall be considered as
29 residence in the state if a person was convicted and sentenced from a

1 court in Alaska; revocation of parole or probation shall b. cause for
2 immediate disqualification until release from confinement is again
3 effected;

4 (4) voluntarily leaves the state and remains absent from
5 the state for a continuous period of more than 180 days.

6 * Sec. 2. AS 47.45 is amended by adding new sections to read:

7 Sec. 47.45.122. ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE. (a) An
8 individual for whom public assistance is denied or reduced solely
9 because of the receipt of a bonus by the individual or by a member of
10 the individual's household is eligible for assistance under the gener-
11 al relief assistance program under AS 47.25.120 - 47.25.300. Notwith-
12 standing the limit in AS 47.25.130, the individual is entitled to
13 receive the same amount as the individual would have received under
14 other public assistance programs had there been no longevity bonus
15 program.

16 (b) In this section "public assistance" means

- 17 (1) Supplemental Security Income (42 U.S.C. 1381 - 1385);
18 (2) Medical Assistance (42 U.S.C. 1396 - 1396p);
19 (3) Adult Public Assistance (AS 47.25.430 - 47.25.615);
20 (4) Aid To Families With Dependent Children (AS 47.25.310 -
21 47.25.420); and

22 (5) any federal assistance, grant, or loan program that
23 uses income level as a criteria for eligibility.

24 Sec. 47.45.124. ELIGIBILITY FOR STATE PROGRAMS. (a) A program
25 administered by the state or any of its instrumentalities or munici-
26 palities, the eligibility for which is based on financial need, may
27 not consider a bonus as income or resources unless required to do so
28 by federal law or regulation.

29 (b) A person who is ineligible for participation in the National

1 Older American Volunteer Programs (42 U.S.C. 5001 - 5023) or the Older
2 American Community Service Employment Program (42 U.S.C. 3056 - 3056f)
3 because a bonus received by the person was considered as income or
4 resources is eligible to participate in similar programs funded by the
5 state.

6 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect July 1, 1985.
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Fery

Introduced: 3/6/85
Referred: Health, Education &
Social Services and Finance

BY KOPONEN, CLOCKSIN, DUNCAN,
GRUENBERG, HURLEY, M.M.MILLER,
SUND, TAYLOR, PIGNALBARI,
UEHLING AND GOLL

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 212

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the use of longevity bonus pay-
7 ments in determining adult public assistance; and
8 providing for an effective date."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

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12 individual for whom public assistance is denied or reduced solely
13 because of the receipt of a bonus by the individual or by a member of
14 the individual's household is eligible for assistance under the
15 general relief assistance program under AS 47.25.120 - 47.25.300.
16 Notwithstanding the limit in AS 47.25.130, the individual is entitled
17 to receive the same amount as the individual would have received under
18 other public assistance programs had there been no longevity bonus
19 program.

20 (b) In this section "public assistance" means

- 21 (1) Supplemental Security Income (42 U.S.C. 1381 - 1385);
- 22 (2) Medical Assistance (42 U.S.C. 1396 - 1396p);
- 23 (3) Adult Public Assistance (AS 47.25.430 - 47.25.615); and
- 24 (4) Aid To Families With Dependent Children (AS 47.25.310 -
25 47.25.420).

26 Sec. 47.45.124. ELIGIBILITY FOR STATE PROGRAMS. (a) A program
27 administered by the state or any of its instrumentalities or munici-
28 palities, the eligibility for which is based on financial need, may
29 not consider a bonus as income or resources unless required to do so

1 by federal law or regulation.

2 (b) A person who is ineligible for participation in the National
3 Older American Volunteer Programs (42 U.S.C. 5001 - 5023) or the Older
4 American Community Service Employment Program (42 U.S.C. 3056 - 3056f)
5 because a bonus received by the person was considered as income or
6 resources is eligible to participate in similar programs funded by the
7 state.

8 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect July 1, 1985.
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Alaska State Legislature
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION
AND SOCIAL SERVICES

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POUCH V
JUNEAU, AK 99811
465-3759

ai
3/13

11 March, 1985

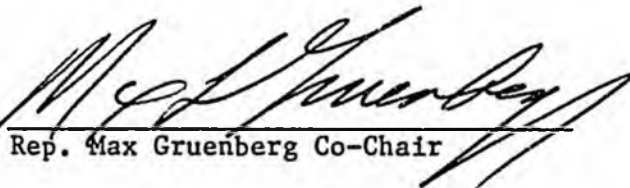
INTENT OF
THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICE COMMITTEE REGARDING
CSSSHB 212

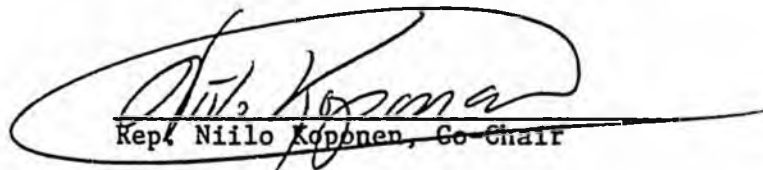
It is the intent of the House Health, Education and Social Services Committee that no recipients of the Longevity Bonus Program lose benefits provided by any federal assistance, grant, or loan program that uses income level as a criteria for eligibility.

If a Longevity Bonus recipient becomes ineligible for such federal benefits solely due to receipt of the Longevity Bonus, the Committee intends that the State of Alaska provide the same benefits through a state funded and administered program where practicable. If no such state program exists, the Committee intends that the state of Alaska provide these benefits through the General Relief program.

These programs include but are not limited to

Alaska Legal Services
Energy Assistance
Weatherization
Housing and Urban Development Housing
College Student Aid
Veterans Retirement and Disability Benefits
Foodstamps
Refugee Assistance
and College Student Aid


Rep. Max Gruenberg Co-Chair


Rep. Niilo Koponen, Co-Chair

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STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Page 1 of 2

Revision Date: _____

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. SS HB No. 212 No. 1
Title: "An Act relating to the use of longevity bonus payments"
Sponsor: Koponen, Clocksin, Duncan...
Requestor: _____
Date of Request: 2/18/85

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Health & Social Service
Program Category Affected: Soc. & Econ. assistance for general pop.
BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: General Relief Assistance

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS		2160.0	2361.2	2576.1	2810.4	3005.3
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		2160.0	2361.2	2576.1	2810.4	3005.3
CAPITAL		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
REVENUE		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

FEDERAL FUND		2160.0	2361.2	2576.1	2810.4	3005.3
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TEMPORARY		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page if necessary

See analysis attached.

Prepared By: John R. Taber, Director
Division: Division of Public Assistance

Phone: 465-3347
Date: March 5, 1985

Approved by Commissioner: [Signature]
Agency: HEALTH & SOC. SER.

Date: 3/5/85 JCC

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):
Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agencies

1. Costs reflect replacing lost Supplemental Security Income monthly payments with General Relief Assistance:

FY Cost

FY86: 750 persons/month = 1,400.0
FY87: 794 persons/month = 1,530.5
FY88: 838 persons/month = 1,669.8
FY89: 884 persons/month = 1,821.6
FY90: 933 persons/month = 1,987.4

2. Costs also reflect replacing lost Old Age Assistance monthly payments with General Relief Assistance:

FY Cost

FY86: 750 persons/month = 760.0
FY87: 794 persons/month = 830.7
FY88: 838 persons/month = 906.3
FY89: 884 persons/month = 988.8
FY90: 933 persons/month = 1,017.9

**STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE**

Revision Date: _____

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: SS HB 212 No 2
 Title: An Act relating to the use of LB payments to determine APA
 Sponsor: Koponen, Clocksin ...
 Requestor: _____
 Date of Request: _____

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Health & Social Services
 Program Category Affected: _____
 BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: Medical Assistance

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
500 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE		(934.9)	(1,062.3)	(1,217.2)	(1,386.0)	(1,584.8)
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
GENERAL FUND		934.9	1,062.3	1,217.2	1,386.0	1,584.8
FEDERAL FUNDS		(934.9)	(1,062.3)	(1,217.2)	(1,386.0)	(1,584.8)
OTHER						
TOTAL		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page if necessary

HB 212 provides for the replacement of FFP lost in the Medicaid program for those recipients who lose Medicaid eligibility due solely to the receipt of ALB. The attached chart projects the recipients, cost and expenditures for recipients whose receipt of ALB will cause them to exceed the Medicaid income limit.

Prepared By: Rod Betit, Director *R. Betit*
 Division: Medical Assistance

Phone: 465-3355
 Date: 3/6/85

Approved by Commissioner: John R. Egan
 Agency: H&SS

Date: 3/8/85 *JRC*

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):
 Legislative Finance
 Legislative Sponsor
 Requestor
 Office of Management and Budget
 Impacted Agencies

STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: _____

Page 1 of 2

REQUEST Page 1 of 3
Bill/Resolution No.: SSHB 212 No 3
Title: Act relating to use of longevity bonus payments
Sponsor: N. Koponen
Requestor: N. Koponen
Date of Request: 3/5/85

FISCAL DETAIL
Agency Affected: Administration
Program Category Affected: Social and Economic Assistance for the Aged
BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: Older Alaskans Commission

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES	-0-					
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS	-0-	384.5	423.0	465.3	511.8	563.0
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	384.5	423.0	465.3	511.8	563.0
CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	384.5	423.0	465.3	511.8	563.0
FEDERAL FUNDS	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
OTHER	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TEMPORARY	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared By: Jon B. Wolfe, Executive Director
 Division: Older Alaskans Commission

Phone: 465-3250
 Date: March 6, 1985

Approved by Commissioner: Lisa Rudd
 Agency: Department of Administration

Date: _____

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):
 Legislative Finance
 Legislative Sponsor
 Requestor
 Office of Management and Budget
 Impacted Agency(ies)

Bill SSHB 212 Page 2 of 3
 Fiscal Note Analysis
 Prepared by Division of Older Alaskans Commission
 Department of Administration
 March 5, 1985

Sponsor Substitute for House Bill 212: "An Act relating to the use of longevity bonus payments in determining adult public assistance."

There are two Federal programs that have been identified where low income participants will become ineligible if the Longevity Bonus becomes an annuity or other income program that is countable for eligibility purposes. One is the Senior Employment Program, Title V of the Older Americans Act, and the other is the Foster Grandparents/Senior Companions (FGP/SC) program. Both are Federally funded and have eligibility guidelines of 125% of the poverty level. The Federal government, in both cases, has granted a waiver so that the Longevity Bonus this year through June 30, 1985 would not be considered countable income. However, once the program becomes an annuity or other type income program, this income will have to be counted beginning on July 1, 1985.

In both programs, an actual count was taken of current participants aged 65 or over who would be ineligible for participation if the Longevity Bonus is counted and their actual program costs were determined as follows.

The Title V Program has 86 persons who are, or will be at least 65 years of age by July 1, 1985. Of this number 34 have been immediately identified who would become ineligible if the Longevity Bonus becomes countable income. The actual cost of wages and fringe benefits for one year for these 34 persons is \$291,414. The Governor's FY'86 budget (including increments) includes state general funds in the amount of \$253,900 in the Title V program which can be used for this "hold harmless" provision, thus leaving a balance of \$37,514 needed. Those who would be affected by the spouse's or other includable family member's receipt of the Longevity Bonus or receipt of COLAs and the ALB is a total of 30 at an additional cost of \$257,130. It is not known at this time how many participants under age 65 would have their eligibility affected by a spouse's or other family member's receipt of the ALB.

The FGP/SC program has identified 29 persons who would become ineligible. The cost of these persons for one year is \$89,900 in stipends, meals, transportation, uniforms and insurance. This does not include any allowance for those whose spouses or other family members might receive the Longevity Bonus thus making the participant ineligible.

Although there will be additional staff time involved in operating two programs with different eligibility under Senior Employment, this will be absorbed by the present staff.

To summarize these figures:

Title V:

34 ineligible persons	\$ 291,414	
Less available SGF for transfer	\$ <u>253,900</u>	
Balance needed		\$ 37,514
30 other ineligible (spouses ALB)		<u>257,130</u>

Title V Total \$294,644

Foster Grandparents/Senior Companions

29 ineligible persons \$ 89,900

Total (without those under 65 affected by spouse's ALB).....\$ 384,544

The following years have been increased by 10% per year to cover population increase and inflation. (Note: The number of persons 55 and over in Alaska has increased 28% from 1980 to 1983).

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

14th... Legislature FIRST.. Session

SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 212

By KOPONEN, CLOCKSIN, DUNCAN, ..
GRUENBERG, HURLEY, M.M. MILLER,
SUND, TAYLOR, PIGNALBERI, UEHLING,
GOLL

"An Act relating to the use of longevity bonus payments in determining adult public assistance; and providing for an effective date."

Long. Bonus/Adult Public Assist.

Introduced in the House ... 3/6....., 19.85

HISTORY IN THE HOUSE

19 85

Mar. 6

Read first time and referred to Committee on HESS AND FINANCE

Reported back with recommendation that

Read second time and

Read third time and

PASS Effective Date
Yeas Yeas
Nays Nays
Absent Absent
Excused Excused

Reconsideration
PASS Effective Date
Yeas Yeas
Nays Nays
Absent Absent
Excused Excused
Reported correctly engrossed
Signed by Speaker
Sent to Senate

CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE

HISTORY IN THE SENATE

19

Read first time and referred to Committee on

Reported back with recommendation that

Read second time and

Read third time and

PASS Effective Date
Yeas Yeas
Nays Nays
Absent Absent
Excused Excused

Reconsideration
PASS Effective Date
Yeas Yeas
Nays Nays
Absent Absent
Excused Excused
Reported correctly engrossed
Signed by President
Returned to House

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

HISTORY IN THE HOUSE

19

Received from Senate

Concurred in Senate amendment thus adopting:
VOTE

Failed to concur in Senate amendment; asked Senate to recede
VOTE

Senate receded from amendment
VOTE

Senate failed to recede from amendment
VOTE

CC appointed by House

CC appointed by Senate

CC adopted by House
VOTE

CC adopted by Senate
VOTE

To enrolling
Reported correctly enrolled
Sent to Governor

..... by Governor

Filed with Lt. Governor

Chapter No.

TO: Representative Koponen
FROM: Deborah Niedermeyer
RE: Programs covered by CSSSHB 212
DATE: 22 March, 1985

MEDICAID: Makes up for the average of 40% medical expenses not covered by Medicare.

OAA/SSI: Cash assistance program which brings the income of seniors up to \$586/month.

OLDER AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS: Provides a stipend to seniors who work as foster grandparents or as companions to other seniors.

OLDER AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICE: Provides half-time community service jobs paying \$650/month. Three quarters of these jobs have health insurance benefits.

ASHA HOUSING: Provides subsidized housing. Rent is 30% of renter's income.

DISABLED VETERANS PENSION: Pensions for 100% disabled veteran and their families. Will bring the income of a single veteran up to \$5709 per year, \$7478 for a couple.

WEATHERIZATION: Installs insulation into low income homes.

JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT SERVICES:

CONTACT: ROD BETIT 465-3355

DATE: MARCH 18, 1985

-REVISED-

SUMMARY OF LONGEVITY BONUS HOLD HARMLESS
DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

BILL NO.	HOLD HARMLESS COVERAGE				FY86 HOLD HARMLESS COSTS (SAVINGS) IN STATE DOLLARS				
	MEDICAL	NURSING HOME	OAA	SSI	MEDICAL	NURSING HOME	OAA	SSI	TOTAL
CSSB56 Judiciary	YES	YES	NO	NO	\$413.8	-0-	-0-	-0-	413.8
CSSB128 (HESS)	YES	YES	YES	YES	413.8	-0-	760.0	1400.0	2573.8
HB210	NO	YES	NO	NO	(466.7)	-0-	-0-	-0-	(466.7)
CSSSHB212 (HESS)	YES	YES	YES	YES	413.8	-0-	760.0	1400.0	2573.8
HB222	NO	YES	NO	NO	(466.7)	-0-	-0-	-0-	(466.7)*
HB239	NO	NO	NO	NO	(466.7)	(781.6)	-0-	-0-	(1248.3)

* Note: In FY87 an additional savings of \$496.1 would occur in the Department's Permanent Fund (PFD) Hold Harmless budget. This is due to HB222's mandatory PFD contribution to the annuity which will reduce the Department's PFD Hold Harmless costs for AFDC (240.8), Aid to the Disabled (100.0), and Medicaid (155.3).

POSITION PAPER

Committee Substitute for Sponsor Substitute for HB 212 (Revised)

For "An Act relating to the use of Longevity Bonus payments in determining eligibility for adult public assistance; and providing for an effective date."

I. Background:

Due to a change in Federal rules made by Congress in 1984, a large number of elderly Alaskans stand to lose millions in state and federal assistance from programs based on need. Congress is requiring the State to count the Bonus for recipients with less than 25 years residence when determining eligibility for Old Age Assistance and Medicaid.

Unless a hold-harmless program is created by the Legislature no later than July 1, 1985, the following adverse impacts will occur at that time.

Approximately 750 Old Age Assistance (OAA) recipients will have their \$250 longevity bonus payment offset by a reduction in their Old Age Assistance and/or federal SSI payment. While no Old Age Assistance recipient will end up with less cash overall, they will have lost the intended benefit of the longevity Bonus.

Approximately 333 of the 750 OAA recipients will also lose their Medicaid non-nursing home benefits due to the Bonus placing them over the OAA qualifying limits. These individuals will lose an average of \$2813 in medical benefits in FY86. DHSS records show that 94% of all OAA recipients use their Medicaid benefits each year.

Finally, approximately 33 individuals now in nursing homes will lose their Medicaid nursing home coverage due to their Longevity Bonus. These persons are the most grievously affected by Congress' 1984 rule change. These individuals total incomes will fall \$3000 short of meeting their monthly nursing home bills.

II. CSSSHB 212 Sectional Analysis:

Section I: This section would exclude all nursing home residents from receipt of the longevity Bonus, including pioneer home beds. This would permit the 33 nursing home cases to remain eligible for Medicaid coverage. This section will reduce the Department's fiscal note by \$1/2 million. It will also generate savings of \$1.3 million in Longevity Bonus payments for a total of \$1.8 million state fund savings.

Section II: This section defines the scope of the hold-harmless. It is further clarified by a letter of intent dated March 11, 1985 from House HESS. The 750 Old Age Assistance recipients would have their lost Federal/state benefits replaced under this section. The 333 non-nursing home Medicaid recipients would also be protected by this section. Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) is included in the list of programs covered by the hold-harmless, but very few longevity bonus-eligible individuals receive AFDC payments due to the fact that Old Age Assistance offers a better financial alternative.

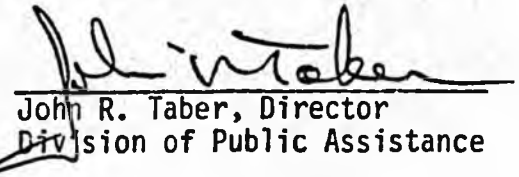
Section II also extends hold-harmless protection to any person who loses federal benefits of any kind if that program is based on need. Administration of this hold-harmless is assigned to the Department of Health and Social Services where there is no comparable state-funded and state-administered program. The Department's unfamiliarity with the specific programs at issue, the undetermined numbers affected, and the unknown potential costs of this expansion to the hold-harmless cause the Department great concern.

The Department recognizes that the need to broaden hold-harmless coverage could prove, upon investigation, to have merit. Substantial research, perhaps by the House Research Agency, would be required to identify all federally-funded programs in Alaska which serve Longevity Bonus recipients and base eligibility in whole or part on income. It would be necessary to identify which currently count or exclude the Bonus, determine how many of those affected would need or choose to apply for General Relief hold-harmless coverage, and determine the amounts they would qualify to receive. If such a study found a need to exist, it might find that General Relief's statutory limitation, to making individual payments to, or on behalf of, eligible persons, is administratively ill-suited to holding harmless some or all of the affected client groups. Such a study might also conclude that this Department was the best location for all hold-harmless activity.

Section III: Makes this Hold-Harmless effective July 1, 1985.

III. DHSS Recommendations: We believe CSSSHB No. 212 provides the full hold-harmless considered essential by the Department for its programs. The Department strongly supports CSSSHB No. 212 but recommends that lines 22 and 23 of page 2 be deleted until the need for an expanded hold-harmless is demonstrated and costs are accurately assessed, including the workload impacts on the administering state agency or agencies.

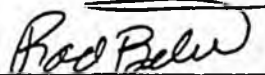
Recommended by:


John R. Taber, Director
Division of Public Assistance

Date:

3-22-85

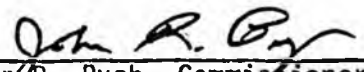
Recommended by:


Rod Betit, Director
Division of Medical Assistance

Date:

3-22-85

Approved by:


John R. Pugh, Commissioner
Department of Health & Social
Services

Date:

3/22/85

STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: _____

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: CSSS HB 212
 Title: An Act relating to the use of
LB payments to determine APA
 Sponsor: HESS Committee
 Requestor: _____
 Date of Request: _____

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Health & Social Services
 Program Category Affected: Social & economic
assistance to general population
 BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: _____
Medical Assistance

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE		(413.8)	(471.6)	(537.2)	(611.3)	(697.1)
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		413.8	471.6	537.2	611.3	697.1
FEDERAL FUNDS		(413.8)	(471.6)	(537.2)	(611.3)	(697.1)
OTHER						
TOTAL		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page if necessary
 CSSS HB 212 provides for the replacement of FFP lost in the Medicaid program for those recipients who lose Medicaid eligibility due solely to the receipt of ALB. The attached chart projects the recipients, cost and expenditures for recipients whose receipt of ALB will cause them to exceed the Medicaid income limit.

Prepared By: Rod Betit *R Betit*
 Division: Medical Assistance

Phone: 465-3355
 Date: March 18, 1985

Approved by Commissioner: John R. Goff
 Agency: Health and Social Services

Date: 3/22/85 *JRC*

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):
 Legislative Finance
 Legislative Sponsor
 Requestor
 Office of Management and Budget
 Impacted Agency(ies)

7/1/84

Table I

This table shows the State general fund match and federal financial participation in the Medicaid program for those expenditures likely to be affected by changes in the current ALB statute. By simply eliminating Medicaid coverage both state and federal expenditures would be reduced. Any change which established an ALB hold harmless provision would result in the loss of FFP. ALB hold harmless program would be funded by transferring the general fund match in the Medicaid program to the ALB hold harmless and adding to it new State general fund in an amount equal to the lost FFP. Because there are a number of legislative proposals seeking to amend the current ALB statute, the following two tables were developed to use in analyzing the impact of these proposals. The comment section on the fiscal note of each bill states whether Medicaid is being eliminated or hold harmless.

Line G. Distribution: Expenditures for non-nursing home clients who may lose Medicaid eligibility.

	FY86	FY87	FY88	FY89	FY90
FED	413,847	471,609	537,173	611,285	697,133
GF	466,678	531,814	605,748	689,321	786,128
TOTAL	880,525	1,003,423	1,142,921	1,300,606	1,483,261

Line I distribution: Expenditures for nursing home clients who may lose Medicaid eligibility.

FED	521,070	590,716	679,971	774,727	887,715
GF	781,605	886,074	1,019,956	1,162,090	1,331,572
TOTAL	1,302,675	1,476,790	1,699,927	1,936,817	2,219,287

Table II

The attached table was prepared to project the offset of various ALB legislative proposals on the Medicaid program. The table represents: a) the nursing home daily rate; b) the nursing home cost for 365 days of services; c) the average cost per non nursing home recipient; d) the recipient share of nursing home costs; e) the number of monthly OAA eligibles; f) the number of ineligible non nursing home OAA due to receipt of ALB; g) the FFP for non nursing home OAA ineligible; h) the number of ineligible OAA nursing home clients and; i) the FFP for ineligible nursing home clients.

	<u>FY85</u>	<u>FY86</u>	<u>FY87</u>	<u>FY88</u>	<u>FY89</u>	<u>FY90</u>
a. NH cost per day (7.5% annual increase)	123.	132.50	142.	153.	164.	177.
b. NH cost per year ((365 days)(a))	44,895.	48,362.	51,830.	55,845.	59,860.	64,605.
c. Non-NH medical cost/recipient/yr(7.5% annual)	2,617	2,813.	3,024.	3,251.	3,494.	3,756.
d. NH recipient cost sharing per year	11,304	11,705	12,660	13,152	12,692	14,232
e. Medicaid eligibles (monthly average)	2,609	2,768	2,937	3,107	3,293	3,491
f. OAA Med ineligible due to ALB	314	333	353	374	396	420
g. OAA ineligible cost (Federal Share at 47%) [.94(f)(c)]	363,044	413,847	471,609	537,173	611,285	697,133
h. NH ineligibles	31	33	35	37	39	41
i. NH ineligibles cost (Federal Replacement at 40%) (hb+hc - hd)	448,979	521,070	590,716	679,971	774,727	887,715

Assumptions:

1. FY84 was used as the base year for calculating recipients and expenditures.
2. In FY84 the average non-nursing home OAA recipient cost was \$2,434 per year.
3. The average cost per year was inflated yearly by a 4.5% inflation factor as indicated by the Anchorage Medical Services CPI, and a 3% intensity of service factor. The intensity factor includes such items as increases in technology, construction of new hospital beds, increases in morbidity and mortality and changes in method of treatment. The division feels the intensity factor is necessary to reflect the high medical risk in the elderly population.
4. The projected number of recipients will increase at 6% per year in line with the general population growth projected in the aged population.
5. In FY86 the number of non-nursing home OAA eligibles who will lose Medicaid coverage will be 333. Of these 94% will utilize medical services.
6. Since Medicaid non-long term care expenditures are composed of 47% federal and 53% state money, the state will need to provide state general funds to replace the 47% federal financial participation. The FFP rate for nursing homes is 40% federal 60% state.
7. The above table represents the cost associated with providing a medical hold harmless program for those OAA recipients who would lose Medicaid eligibility. Line "i" represents the FFP replacement cost for all nursing home hold harmless recipients. Line G is the FFP replacement for non-nursing home recipients.

**STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE**

Revision Date: 3-21-85

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. SSSB No. 212
 Title: "An Act relating to the use of longevity bonus payments"
 Sponsor: House HESS
 Requestor: _____
 Date of Request: 3/21/85

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Health & Social Service
 Program Category Affected: Soc. & Econ. assistance for general pop.
 BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: General Relief Assistance

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS		2160.0	2361.2	2576.1	2810.4	3005.3
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		2160.0	2361.2	2576.1	2810.4	3005.3
CAPITAL		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
REVENUE		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		2160.0	2361.2	2576.1	2810.4	3005.3
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TEMPORARY		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page if necessary

See analysis attached.

Prepared By: John R. Taber, Director Phone: 465-3347
 Division: Division of Public Assistance Date: March 21, 1985

Approved by Commissioner: _____ Date: 3-22-85
 Agency: Health & Social Services

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Evaluation

1. Costs reflect replacing cost Supplemental Security Income monthly payments with General Relief Assistance:

FY Cost

FY86: 750 persons/month = 1,400.0
FY87: 794 persons/month = 1,530.5
FY88: 838 persons/month = 1,669.8
FY89: 884 persons/month = 1,821.6
FY90: 933 persons/month = 1,987.4

2. Costs also reflect replacing lost Old Age Assistance monthly payments with General Relief Assistance:

FY Cost

FY86: 750 persons/month = 760.0
FY87: 794 persons/month = 830.7
FY88: 838 persons/month = 906.3
FY89: 884 persons/month = 988.8
FY90: 933 persons/month = 1,017.9

3. No costs are shown for AFDC Hold-Harmless because eligible bonus recipients can be referred instead to the Old Age Assistance program, which offers higher net benefits. Costs do not reflect the expansion of Hold-Harmless coverage to all Federal needs-based grant, loan, and assistance programs. No data exists to assess the scope and costs of this expansion.

SUMMARY OF CURRENTLY IDENTIFIED COSTS TO STATE:
CS SS HB 212 (HESS)

413.8	Medicaid
2160.0	OAA/SSI
384.5	Older American Volunteer/Foster Grandparents
836.0	ASHA Housing Assistance
819.0	Disabled Veterans Assistance
337.2	Weatherization/JTPA
339.0	Loss of nursing wing ALB income to Pioneers' Homes
5289.5	SUBTOTAL
(1313.4)	Savings from not paying ALBs to nursing home residents
3976.1	TOTAL*

* Please note that due to the current language of the bill, additional costs could develop if federal program guidelines change in the future. In other words, everytime the federal government requires that the bonus be counted as income to determine eligibility for a program in the future, the state could be required to make up the difference. This total only represents those costs currently identified.

STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: _____

Page 1 of 2

<p>REQUEST <u>Bill/Resolution No. SSB 212 (HSS)</u> <u>Title: Act relating to use of longevity bonus payments</u> <u>Sponsor: N. Koponen</u> <u>Requestor: N. Koponen</u> <u>Date of Request: 3/5/85</u></p>	<p>FISCAL DETAIL <u>Agency Affected: Administration</u> <u>Program Category Affected: Social and Economic Assistance for the Aged</u> <u>BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: Older Alaskans Commission</u></p>
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EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES	-0-					
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS	-0-	384.5	423.0	465.3	511.8	563.0
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	384.5	423.0	465.3	511.8	563.0
CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	384.5	423.0	465.3	511.8	563.0
FEDERAL FUNDS	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
OTHER	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TEMPORARY	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared By: Jon B. Wolfe, Executive Director *Jon B. Wolfe* Phone: 465-3250
 Division: Older Alaskans Commission Date: March 6, 1985

Approved by Commissioner: Lisa Rudd Date: _____
 Agency: Department of Administration

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):
 Legislative Finance
 Legislative Sponsor
 Requestor
 Office of Management and Budget
 Impacted Agency(ies)

Bill SSHB 212
Fiscal Note Analysis
Prepared by Division of Older Alaskans Commission
Department of Administration
March 5, 1985

Sponsor Substitute for House Bill 212: "An Act relating to the use of longevity bonus payments in determining adult public assistance."

There are two Federal programs that have been identified where low income participants will become ineligible if the Longevity Bonus becomes an annuity or other income program that is countable for eligibility purposes. One is the Senior Employment Program, Title V of the Older Americans Act, and the other is the Foster Grandparents/Senior Companions (FGP/SC) program. Both are Federally funded and have eligibility guidelines of 125% of the poverty level. The Federal government, in both cases, has granted a waiver so that the Longevity Bonus this year through June 30, 1985 would not be considered countable income. However, once the program becomes an annuity or other type income program, this income will have to be counted beginning on July 1, 1985.

In both programs, an actual count was taken of current participants aged 65 or over who would be ineligible for participation if the Longevity Bonus is counted and their actual program costs were determined as follows.

The Title V Program has 86 persons who are, or will be at least 65 years of age by July 1, 1985. Of this number 34 have been immediately identified who would become ineligible if the Longevity Bonus becomes countable income. The actual cost of wages and fringe benefits for one year for these 34 persons is \$291,414. The Governor's FY'86 budget (including increments) includes state general funds in the amount of \$253,900 in the Title V program which can be used for this "hold harmless" provision, thus leaving a balance of \$37,514 needed. Those who would be affected by the spouse's or other includable family member's receipt of the Longevity Bonus or receipt of COLAs and the ALB is a total of 30 at an additional cost of \$257,130. It is not known at this time how many participants under age 65 would have their eligibility affected by a spouse's or other family member's receipt of the ALB.

The FGP/SC program has identified 29 persons who would become ineligible. The cost of these persons for one year is \$89,900 in stipends, meals, transportation, uniforms and insurance. This does not include any allowance for those whose spouses or other family members might receive the Longevity Bonus thus making the participant ineligible.

Although there will be additional staff time involved in operating two programs with different eligibility under Senior Employment, this will be absorbed by the present staff.

To summarize these figures:

Title V:

34 ineligible persons	\$ 291,414	
Less available SGF for transfer	\$ <u>253,900</u>	
Balance needed		\$ 37,514
30 other ineligible (spouses ALB)		<u>257,130</u>

Page 2 (cont.)

Title V Total \$294,644

Foster Grandparents/Senior Companions

29 ineligible persons \$ 89,900

Total (without those under 65 affected by spouse's ALB).....\$ 384,544

The following years have been increased by 10% per year to cover population increase and inflation. (Note: The number of persons 55 and over in Alaska has increased 28% from 1980 to 1983).

STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: _____

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 212
Title: Longevity Bonus Payments

Sponsor: Representative Kopenen
Requestor: Hess
Date of Request: 3/22/85

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Dept. of Commerce - ASHA
Program Category Affected: ?

BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected:
ASHA Federal Programs

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS						
800 MISCELLANEOUS	836	877	915	968	1016	1067
TOTAL OPERATING :						

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0
----------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	836	877	915	968	1016	1067
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page if necessary

See attached memorandum

Prepared By: George M. Briggs, Deputy Exec. Dir. Phone: 562-2813
Division: Dept. of Commerce/Ak. State Hsg. Auth. Date: 3/22/85

Approved by Commissioner: n/a Date: 3/22/85
Agency: Alaska State Housing Authority

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

7/1/84



March 22, 1985

The Honorable Niilo Koponen
State of Alaska
House of Representatives
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: House Bill 212

Dear Representative Koponen:

I have analyzed the affect of House Bill 212 on the ASHA federal program operations and offer the following comments.

If the Alaska State Housing Authority was required to make up the difference between the increase rent caused by the \$3,000 annual bonus, an amount of \$1,286 per eligible resident within our projects would be required. That figure amounts to roughly \$835,900 per year. This is assuming that there are 650 eligible applicants within our senior projects throughout the State.

The Alaska State Housing Authority is not funded through the State of Alaska at this time and we operate solely on federal funds or, in certain cases, grant for development of senior housing by the State. To obtain necessary funds to rebate to the eligible residents for the losses caused by the bonus would require an appropriation from the State of Alaska in the amount above stated.

The fiscal note indicates the estimated amount for the next fiscal year. I have projected a flat 5% increase in the number of seniors in our projects that are eligible for the bonus. The 5% factor is questionable in that unless new housing is built it is unlike that the 5% would be sustainable over the next six years.

If I can provide further information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

ALASKA STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY


George M. Briggs
Deputy Executive Director

GMB/laj

**STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE**

Revision Date: _____

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: CSSSHB 212
 Title: Needs basis funding for Disabled Veterans to replace Longevity
 Sponsor: Koponen, Clocksin, Duncan, et al
 Requestor: House HESS
 Date of Request: 21 March 1985

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Military & Veterans Affairs
 Program Category Affected: Bonus Life & Property Protection
 BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: Veterans Affairs, Veterans Services

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS		819.0	819.0	819.0		
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		819.0	819.0	819.0		

CAPITAL						
----------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE						
----------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		819.0	819.0	819.0		
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		819.0	819.0	819.0		

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page if necessary

There are 273 Veterans eligible for the State Longevity Bonus. If all would benefit by this bill at 250.00/month, the following calculation would apply:
 (273 X \$250.00 X 12) = \$819,000.00

Prepared By: Richard L. Rountree, Director

Phone: 465-4600

Division: Administrative & Support Services

Date: 3/21/85

Approved by Commissioner: MG Edward G. Pagano

Date: 3/21/85

Agency: Military & Veterans Affairs

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

Legislative Finance
 Legislative Sponsor
 Requestor
 Office of Management and Budget
 Impacted Agency(ies)

7/1/84

STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: _____

REQUEST CS for SS FISCAL DETAIL
 Bill/Resolution No.: HB 212 (HESS) Agency Affected: DCRA
 Title: Use of longevity bonus payments in determining public assistance. Program Category Affected: _____
 Sponsor: Rep. Koponen, et.al. BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: _____
 Requestor: _____
 Date of Request: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS		337.2	354.06	371.76		
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		337.2	354.06	371.76		

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
----------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
GENERAL FUND		337.2	354.06	371.76		
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		337.2	354.06	371.76		

POSITIONS:

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page if necessary

Prepared By: Jennifer Fate Phone: 465-4700
 Division: Office of the Commissioner Date: 3/21/85
 Approved by Commissioner: Emil Notti Date: 3/21/85
 Agency: Community and Regional Affairs

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):
 Legislative Finance
 Legislative Sponsor
 Requestor
 Office of Management and Budget
 Impacted Agency(ies)

7/1/84

CS for SS HB 212 (HESS)
Fiscal Note Analysis
Community and Regional Affairs

The Department of Community and Regional Affairs administers two programs which are federally funded and use low income as criteria for assistance eligibility. The two programs include the Job Training Partnership Act and the Energy Weatherization program.

Impact on Job Training Partnership Act Services:

Number of Senior Citizens planned for JTPA service in 1985: 46 Senior Citizens.

Those Senior Citizens ineligible for JTPA services if the Longevity Bonus is counted as income: 28 Senior Citizens.

Cost to the State of Alaska to compensate for JTPA service delivery to those 28 low income Senior Citizens (28 x \$2,400 average JTPA service cost per individual): \$67,200.

Impact on the federally funded Low Income Weatherization Program:

Number of Senior Citizen homes planned for Weatherization service in 1985: 160 homes.

Those Senior Citizen homes ineligible for Weatherization service if the Longevity Bonus is counted as income: 135 homes.

Cost to the State to compensate for Weatherization service delivery to those affected homes (135 x \$2,000 average Weatherization cost per home): \$270,000.

NOTE: Each of the 135 affected homes may house more than one Senior Citizen. In this case, the bill would effect more than 135 individuals, however the costs would not change. Historically, the Energy Weatherization program has placed priority in assisting Senior Citizens and handicapped individuals.

The five percent increase between fiscal years on the fiscal note accounts for inflation.

STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: _____

Page 1 of 2

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: CSSSHB 212 (HESS)
 Title: Eligibility and Use of Longevity Bonus in Determining Adult Public Assist.
 Sponsor: Koponen
 Requestor: _____
 Date of Request: _____

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Administration
 Program Category Affected: Social and Economic Assistance for the Aged
 BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: Longevity Bonus and Pioneers' Homes

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
200 TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
300 CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
400 SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
500 EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
600 LAND & STRUCTURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS	0	(1,712.4)	(1,712.4)	(1,712.4)	(1,712.4)	(1,712.4)
800 MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL OPERATING	0	(1,712.4)	(1,712.4)	(1,712.4)	(1,712.4)	(1,712.4)

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE	0	(399.0)	(399.0)	(399.0)	(399.0)	(399.0)
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	(1,313.4)	(1,313.4)	(1,313.4)	(1,313.4)	(1,313.4)
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	(1,313.4)	(1,313.4)	(1,313.4)	(1,313.4)	(1,313.4)

POSITIONS:	0	0	0	0	0	0
FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared By: Joyce Munson, Director *Joyce Munson* Phone: 465-4400
 Division: Pioneers' Benefits Date: March 15, 1985

Approved by Commissioner: Lisa Rudd *ABR* Date: 3/18/85
 Agency: Department of Administration

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):
 Legislative Finance
 Legislative Sponsor
 Requestor
 Office of Management and Budget
 Impacted Agency(ies)

CSSSHB 212 (HESS)
Fiscal Note Analysis
Prepared by the Division of Pioneers' Benefits
Department of Administration
March 15, 1985

This bill makes persons who reside in nursing homes and government operated mental health facilities ineligible for the Longevity Bonus.

ASSUMPTIONS

1. Those persons who would be affected in mental health facilities, Pioneers' Homes and nursing homes was approximately 608 as of February 1985. For the purpose of this fiscal note, it is assumed this number will remain unchanged. $(608 \times 12 \times \$250 = \$1,824,000 \text{ saving})$
2. There are approximately 133 nursing care residents of the Pioneers' Homes who use the Longevity Bonus to pay their monthly charges for care. Loss of the Longevity Bonus to these people would result in loss of revenue as program receipts for the Pioneers' Homes. $(133 \times 12 \times \$250 = \$399,000 \text{ est. loss of program receipts})$
3. Of the approximately 133 residents in Pioneers' Homes who would be affected, approximately 93 would have incomes reduced to the point they would become eligible for the monthly stipend payable under AS 47.25.020 (b) and (c). $(93 \times 12 \times \$100 = \$111,600)$

considered by J.

increased?

No consideration has been given to persons who may occupy the Juneau Pioneers' Home beginning in FY 88 because information is not available at this time about their incomes or needs.

STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: _____

Page 1 of 2

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: CSSSHB 212 (HESS)

Title: Eligibility and Use of Longevity Bonus in Determining Adult Public Assist.

Sponsor: Koponen

Requestor: _____

Date of Request: _____

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Administration

Program Category Affected: Social and Economic Assistance for the Aged

BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: Longevity Bonus and Pioneers' Homes

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
100 PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
200 TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
300 CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
400 SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
500 EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
600 LAND & STRUCTURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS	0	(1,712.4)	(1,712.4)	(1,712.4)	(1,712.4)	(1,712.4)
800 MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL OPERATING	0	(1,712.4)	(1,712.4)	(1,712.4)	(1,712.4)	(1,712.4)
CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUE	0	(399.0)	(399.0)	(399.0)	(399.0)	(399.0)

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	(1,313.4)	(1,313.4)	(1,313.4)	(1,313.4)	(1,313.4)
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	(1,313.4)	(1,313.4)	(1,313.4)	(1,313.4)	(1,313.4)

POSITIONS:	0	0	0	0	0	0
FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared By: Joyce Munson, Director *Joyce Munson* Phone: 465-4400
 Division: Pioneers' Benefits Date: March 15, 1985

Approved by Commissioner: Lisa Rudd *LR* Date: 3/18/85
 Agency: Department of Administration

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):
 Legislative Finance
 Legislative Sponsor
 Requestor
 Office of Management and Budget
 Impacted Agency(ies)

CSSSHB 212 (HESS)
Fiscal Note Analysis
Prepared by the Division of Pioneers' Benefits
Department of Administration
March 15, 1985

This bill makes persons who reside in nursing homes and government operated mental health facilities ineligible for the Longevity Bonus.

ASSUMPTIONS

1. Those persons who would be affected in mental health facilities, Pioneers' Homes and nursing homes was approximately 608 as of February 1985. For the purpose of this fiscal note, it is assumed this number will remain unchanged. $(608 \times 12 \times \$250 = \$1,824,000 \text{ saving})$
2. There are approximately 133 nursing care residents of the Pioneers' Homes who use the Longevity Bonus to pay their monthly charges for care. Loss of the Longevity Bonus to these people would result in loss of revenue as program receipts for the Pioneers' Homes. $(133 \times 12 \times \$250 = \$399,000 \text{ est. loss of program receipts})$
3. Of the approximately 133 residents in Pioneers' Homes who would be affected, approximately 93 would have incomes reduced to the point they would become eligible for the monthly stipend payable under AS 47.25.020 (b) and (c). $(93 \times 12 \times \$100 = \$111,600)$

No consideration has been given to persons who may occupy the Juneau Pioneers' Home beginning in FY 88 because information is not available at this time about their incomes or needs.

Handwritten notes:
} covered
} by
} AS 47.25.020
} (b) & (c)

Handwritten note: increased?



Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION
AND SOCIAL SERVICES

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POUCH V
JUNEAU, AK 99811
465-3759

Handwritten:
C-1
3/13

11 March, 1985

INTENT OF
THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICE COMMITTEE REGARDING
CSSSHB 212

It is the intent of the House Health, Education and Social Services Committee that no recipient of the Longevity Bonus Program lose benefits provided by any federal assistance, grant, or loan program that uses income level as a criteria for eligibility.

If a Longevity Bonus recipient becomes ineligible for such federal benefits solely due to receipt of the Longevity Bonus, the Committee intends that the State of Alaska provide the same benefits through a state funded and administered program where practicable. If no such state program exists, the Committee intends that the state of Alaska provide these benefits through the General Relief program.

These programs include but are not limited to

Alaska Legal Services
Energy Assistance
Weatherization
Housing and Urban Development Housing
College Student Aid
Veterans Retirement and Disability Benefits
Foodstamps
Refugee Assistance
~~and College Student Aid~~

Handwritten signature of Max Gruenberg
Rep. Max Gruenberg Co-Chair

Handwritten signature of Niilo Koponen
Rep. Niilo Koponen, Co-Chair

TO: Representative Koponen
FROM: Deborah Niedermeyer, Aide to House HESS Committee
RE: Sectional Analysis for CSSH B 212
DATE: 21 March, 1985

SECTION 1

This section makes certain groups ineligible to receive the Longevity Bonus. The language was lifted directly from SB 56. The important exclusion is residents of nursing homes most of whom would lose Medicaid benefits if they were eligible for the Bonus. Because Medicaid pays a large share of nursing home care, it would be prohibitively expensive for the state to "hold harmless" for this group.

SECTION 2

This section requires the state to provide equivalent benefits to any Alaskan who loses federal benefits solely because his or her income went up due to the Longevity Bonus. Several programs are mentioned by name. All other programs are covered in (b)(5).

SECTION 3

This section does two things:

- 1) It prohibits the state from counting the Longevity Bonus as income in any program where the state itself sets income eligibility guidelines.
- 2) It requires the state to "hold harmless" for two federal senior employment programs by setting up "similar programs" paid for with state funds.

TO: Representative Koponen
FROM: Deborah Niedermeyer, Aide to House HESS Committee
RE: HESS Committee Substitute for HB 212
DATE: 22 March, 1985

Original HB 212

The HB 212, as originally written, insured that the state would make up the difference when an Alaskan senior lost cash benefits or medical assistance from a list of specified public assistance programs which had income guidelines set by the federal government. The programs are Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Adult Public Assistance (APA), Aid To Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) and, most importantly, Medicaid. The Foodstamps program, which had always counted the Longevity Bonus as income, was not included in the list.

Sponsor Substitute

After the bill was introduced, two more federal programs which 1) have income guidelines and 2) are of great benefit to the participating seniors came to light. These are the Older American Community Service Employment Program and the National Older American Volunteer Program. These two programs were added by name in the bill.

Committee Substitute

When SSHB 212 was heard in House HESS, the committee learned that some recipients of the Longevity Bonus are either losing or in danger of losing benefits under other federal programs. The most important of these programs are Veterans Disability Pensions and HUD rent subsidies in ASHA Housing.

The committee decided to amend the bill to require the state to make up for benefits lost under "any federal assistance, grant, or loan program that uses income level as a criteria for eligibility". At the same time, the committee amended the bill to make nursing home residents ineligible for the Bonus because the expense of making up loss Medicaid benefits for this group is prohibitive.

The committee added a letter of intent which said "If a Longevity Bonus recipient becomes ineligible for such benefits solely due to the receipt of the Longevity Bonus, the Committee intends that the State of Alaska provide the same benefits through a state funded and administered program where practicable. If no such program exists, the Committee intends that the State of Alaska provide these benefits through the General Relief program."

POSITION PAPER

HB 212


This bill relates to the use of longevity bonus payments in determining adult public assistance, and provides for an effective date.

This bill would hold harmless longevity bonus recipients who would otherwise lose public assistance payments under supplemental security income, medicaid, adult public assistance, or aid to families with dependent children.

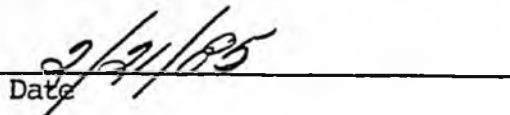
This bill would provide for payments in a like amount of any losses suffered from any such lost payments.

A fiscal note is not required by the Department of Administration.


The Department of Administration supports the passage of this bill.



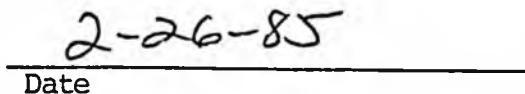
E. Louis Keller, Director
Division of Pioneers' Benefits



Date



Commissioner Lisa Rudd
Department of Administration



Date

permanent fund dividend; the department shall set the time limit for applications for permanent fund dividends so that the number of eligible applicants is deter-

mined by September 1 and permanent fund dividends for a year are paid before December 31 of that year."

Sec. 43.23.060. Duties of the department. [Repealed, § 22 ch 102 SLA 1982.]

Sec. 43.23.065. Exemption of permanent fund dividends. Fifty percent of the annual permanent fund dividend payable to an individual is exempt from levy, execution, garnishment, attachment, or any other remedy for the collection of debt. This exemption applies to an eligible individual's permanent fund dividend both before and after payment is made to the individual. No exemption is available under this section for permanent fund dividends taken to satisfy child support obligations required by court order or decision of the child support enforcement agency under AS 47.23.140 — 47.23.220. (§ 1 ch 102 SLA 1982)

Cross references. — For property exempt from execution generally, see AS 09.38.

Sec. 43.23.070. Exemption of permanent fund dividends. [Repealed, § 22 ch 102 SLA 1982.]

Sec. 43.23.075. Eligibility for public assistance. (a) In determining the eligibility of an individual under a public assistance program administered by the Department of Health and Social Services in which eligibility for assistance is based on financial need, the Department of Health and Social Services may not consider a permanent fund dividend as income or resources received by the recipient of public assistance or by a member of the recipient's household unless required to do so by federal law or regulation. The Department of Health and Social Services shall notify all recipients of public assistance of the effects of receiving a permanent fund dividend.

(b) An individual who is denied medical assistance under 42 U.S.C. 1396 — 1396p (Social Security Act, Title XIX) solely because of the receipt of a permanent fund dividend by the individual or by a member of the individual's household is eligible for state-funded medical assistance under the general relief assistance program (AS 47.25.120 — 47.25.300). The individual is entitled to receive, for a period not to exceed four months, the same level of medical assistance as the individual would have received under 42 U.S.C. 1396 — 1396p (Social Security Act, Title XIX) had there been no permanent fund dividend program.

(c) An individual who is denied assistance solely because permanent fund dividends received by the individual or by a member of the individual's household are counted as income or resources under federal

law or regulation is eligible for cash assistance under the general relief assistance program (AS 47.25.120 — 47.25.300). Notwithstanding the limit in AS 47.25.130, the individual is entitled to receive, for a period not to exceed four months, the same amount as the individual would have received under other public assistance programs had there been no permanent fund dividend program. (§ 1 ch 102 SLA 1982)

Sec. 43.23.080. Eligibility for state public assistance payments. [Repealed, § 22 ch 102 SLA 1982.]

Sec. 43.23.085. Eligibility for state programs. No program administered by the state or any of its instrumentalities or municipalities, the eligibility for which is based on financial need, shall consider a permanent fund dividend as income or resources unless required to do so by federal law or regulation. (§ 1 ch 102 SLA 1982)

Sec. 43.23.090. Tax exemption. [Repealed, § 22 ch 102 SLA 1982.]

Sec. 43.23.095. Definitions. In this chapter,

- (1) "Alaska permanent fund" means the fund established by art. IX, sec. 15 of the state constitution;
- (2) "commissioner" means the commissioner of revenue;
- (3) "department" means the Department of Revenue;
- (4) "dividend fund" means the fund established by AS 43.23.045;
- (5) "individual" means a natural person;
- (6) "permanent fund dividend" means a right to receive a payment from the dividend fund;
- (7) "state resident" means an individual who is physically present in the state with the intent to remain permanently in the state or, if the individual is not physically present in the state, intends to return to the state and is absent only for any of the following reasons:
 - (A) vocational, professional, or other specific education for which a comparable program was not reasonably available in the state;
 - (B) secondary or postsecondary education;
 - (C) military service;
 - (D) medical treatment;
 - (E) service in Congress;
 - (F) other reasons which the commissioner may establish by regulation; or
 - (G) service in the Peace Corps;
- (8) "year" means a calendar year. (§ 1 ch 102 SLA 1982; am § 3 ch 55 SLA 1983)

Effect of amendments. — The 1983 amendment added paragraph (7)(G).

Sec. 43.23.100. Definitions. [Repealed, § 22 ch 102 SLA 1982.]

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(b) The board may withdraw probationary status if it finds that the deficiencies which required the sanction have been remedied.

(c) The board may summarily suspend a license before final hearing or during the appeals process if the board finds that the licensee poses a clear and immediate danger to the public health and safety if the licensee continues to practice. A person whose license is suspended under this section shall be entitled to a hearing by the board no later than seven days after the effective date of the order. The person may appeal the suspension after a hearing to a court of competent jurisdiction.

(d) The board may reinstate a license which has been suspended or revoked if the board finds after a hearing that the applicant is able to practice with skill and safety.

(e) The board shall seek consistency in the application of disciplinary sanctions, and significant departure from prior decisions involving similar situations shall be explained in findings of fact or orders. (§ 1 ch 123 SLA 1975; am § 13 ch 141 SLA 1980)

Effect of amendments. — The 1980 amendment rewrote the section.

Editor's notes. — This section was redrafted by the revisor of statutes to remove personal pronouns in conformity with AS 01.05.031(c) and § 4, Chapter 58, SLA 1982.

Sec. 08.70.170. Penalties. A person convicted of violating a provision of this chapter is guilty of a class B misdemeanor. (§ 1 ch 123 SLA 1975; am § 14 ch 141 SLA 1980)

Cross references. — For penalties for misdemeanors, see AS 12.55.135.

Effect of amendments. — The 1980 amendment substituted "guilty of a class B misdemeanor" for "punishable by a fine of not more than \$500, or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or by both" at the end of the section.

Sec. 08.70.180. Definitions. In this chapter

- (1) "board" means the Board of Nursing Home Administrators;
- (2) "department" means the Department of Commerce and Economic Development;
- (3) "license" means the certificate awarded by the board to a qualified person which entitles the person to be a nursing home administrator in this state;
- (4) "licensee" means a person who has been granted a license to be a nursing home administrator in this state by the board;
- (5) "nursing home" means a facility which is operated in connection with a hospital or in which nursing care, intermediate care, and medical services are prescribed by or performed under the general direction of persons licensed to practice medicine or surgery within the state for the accommodation of convalescents or other persons who are not acutely ill but who do require skilled or intermediate nursing care and related medical services; the term "nursing home" is restricted to those

facilities the purpose of which is to provide skilled or intermediate nursing care and related medical services for a period of not less than 24 hours a day to individuals admitted because of illness, disease or physical or mental infirmity;

(6) "nursing home administrator" means a person who manages, supervises, or is in general charge of a nursing home, even though the duties are shared with another person; a member of a board of directors of a nursing home is an administrator only if the board member also serves in the administrative capacity defined in this paragraph. (§ 1 ch 123 SLA 1975; am § 51 ch 218 SLA 1976)

Editor's notes. — This section was redrafted by the revisor of statutes to remove personal pronouns in conformity with AS 01.05.031(c) and § 4, Chapter 58, SLA 1982.

Sec. 08.70.190. Facilities operated by religious organizations. Nothing in this chapter or the regulation under this chapter is to be construed as requiring a person who applies for a license as administrator of a facility operated by a religious organization relying on spiritual means alone for healing to have skills in medical techniques or educational qualifications which are not in accord with the care and treatment provided in the facility. (§ 1 ch 123 SLA 1975)

Chapter 71. Dispensing Opticians.

Article

1. Board of Dispensing Opticians (§§ 08.71.010 — 08.71.070)
2. Licensing (§§ 08.71.080 — 08.71.160)
3. Unlawful Acts (§§ 08.71.170 — 08.71.180)
4. Miscellaneous Provisions (§ 08.71.200)
5. General Provisions (§§ 08.71.220 — 08.71.240)

Collateral references. — 61 Am. Jur. 2d, Physicians, Surgeons and Other Healers, §§ 3, 40-43. 70 C.J.S., Physicians and Surgeons, §§ 11, 13.

Article 1. Board of Dispensing Opticians.

Section

10. Creation of board
20. Membership and term of office
30. [Repealed]
40. Election of officers

Section

45. Removal of board members
50. [Repealed]
55. Powers and duties
- 60 — 70. [Repealed]

Sec. 08.71.010. Creation of board. There is created the Board of Dispensing Opticians. (§ 1 ch 45 SLA 1973)

Offered: 3/13/85
Referred: Finance

Original sponsors: Koponen, Clocksin,
Duncan, et al

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND
2 CS FOR SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 212 (HESS) SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION
5 A BILL
6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to eligibility for longevity bonus
7 payments and the use of longevity bonus payments in
8 determining adult public assistance; and providing
9 for an effective date."
10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
11 * Section 1. AS 47.45.070 is amended to read:
12 Sec. 47.45.070. UNQUALIFIED PERSONS. An unqualified person is
13 one who
14 (1) does not meet the age or residence requirements as
15 provided for under this chapter;
16 (2) meets the age and residence requirements of this chap-
17 ter but either is confined in a state or federal mental health insti-
18 tution or facility and is certified by the state as unable to manage
19 personal affairs, or resides in a nursing home as that term is defined
20 in AS 08.70.180; however, if that person, at the time of commitment or
21 commencement of residence, provided the principal support of a spouse,
22 the commissioner of administration may determine to pay the confined
23 person's bonus to the person's spouse until the spouse is qualified
24 for a bonus;
25 (3) is otherwise qualified but confined in a penal or
26 correctional institution or facility; upon completion of sentence or
27 upon the conferral of a pardon, parole or probation, the person may
28 make application; confinement outside the state shall be considered as
29 residence in the state if a person was convicted and sentenced from a

1 court in Alaska; revocation of parole or probation shall be cause for
2 immediate disqualification until release from confinement is again
3 effected;

4 (4) voluntarily leaves the state and remains absent from
5 the state for a continuous period of more than 180 days.

6 * Sec. 2. AS 47.45 is amended by adding new sections to read:

7 Sec. 47.45.122. ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE. (a) An
8 individual for whom public assistance is denied or reduced solely
9 because of the receipt of a bonus by the individual or by a member of
10 the individual's household is eligible for assistance under the gener-
11 al relief assistance program under AS 47.25.120 - 47.25.300. Notwith-
12 standing the limit in AS 47.25.130, the individual is entitled to
13 receive the same amount as the individual would have received under
14 other public assistance programs had there been no longevity bonus
15 program.

16 (b) In this section "public assistance" means

17 (1) Supplemental Security Income (42 U.S.C. 1381 - 1385);

18 (2) Medical Assistance (42 U.S.C. 1396 - 1396p);

19 (3) Adult Public Assistance (AS 47.25.430 - 47.25.615);

20 (4) Aid To Families With Dependent Children (AS 47.25.310 -
21 47.25.420); and

22 (5) any federal assistance, grant, or loan program that
23 uses income level as a criteria for eligibility.

24 Sec. 47.45.124. ELIGIBILITY FOR STATE PROGRAMS. (a) A program
25 administered by the state or any of its instrumentalities or munici-
26 palities, the eligibility for which is based on financial need, may
27 not consider a bonus as income or resources unless required to do so
28 by federal law or regulation.

29 (b) A person who is ineligible for participation in the National

1 Older American Volunteer Programs (42 U.S.C. 5001 - 5023) or the Older
2 American Community Service Employment Program (42 U.S.C. 3056 - 3056f)
3 because a bonus received by the person was considered as income or
4 resources is eligible to participate in similar programs funded by the
5 state.

6 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect July 1, 1985.

7

Introduced: 3/6/85
Referred: Health, Education &
Social Services and Finance

BY KOPONEN, CLOCKSIN, DUNCAN,
GRUENBERG, HURLEY, M.M.MILLER,
SUND, TAYLOR, PIGNALBERI,
UEHLING AND GOLL

1 IN THE HOUSE

2

SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 212

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the use of longevity bonus pay-
7 ments in determining adult public assistance; and
8 providing for an effective date."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. AS 47.45 is amended by adding new sections to read:

11 Sec. 47.45.122. ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE. (a) An
12 individual for whom public assistance is denied or reduced solely
13 because of the receipt of a bonus by the individual or by a member of
14 the individual's household is eligible for assistance under the
15 general relief assistance program under AS 47.25.120 - 47.25.300.
16 Notwithstanding the limit in AS 47.25.130, the individual is entitled
17 to receive the same amount as the individual would have received under
18 other public assistance programs had there been no longevity bonus
19 program.

20 (b) In this section "public assistance" means

- 21 (1) Supplemental Security Income (42 U.S.C. 1381 - 1385);
22 (2) Medical Assistance (42 U.S.C. 1396 - 1396p);
23 (3) Adult Public Assistance (AS 47.25.430 - 47.25.615); and
24 (4) Aid To Families With Dependent Children (AS 47.25.310 -
25 47.25.420).

26 Sec. 47.45.124. ELIGIBILITY FOR STATE PROGRAMS. (a) A program
27 administered by the state or any of its instrumentalities or munici-
28 palities, the eligibility for which is based on financial need, may
29 not consider a bonus as income or resources unless required to do so

1 by federal law or regulation.

2 (b) A person who is ineligible for participation in the National
3 Older American Volunteer Programs (42 U.S.C. 5001 - 5023) or the Older
4 American Community Service Employment Program (42 U.S.C. 3056 - 3056f)
5 because a bonus received by the person was considered as income or
6 resources is eligible to participate in similar programs funded by the
7 state.

8 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect July 1, 1985.

9

COMMITTEE REPORT
HOUSE

(11)

FURTHER:

3/11/85

Date: 3-20-85

The Committee on FINANCE has had HB 215

"An Act relating to state assistance for community health aide programs; and providing for an effective date."

under consideration and recommends:

- do pass do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for HP, 215 (FIN) same title
 new title
- and recommends individual recommendations
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" New Fiscal Note 2/11/85
 Zero Fiscal Note Attached 4/11-3
- reports it back without recommendation
- referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

Walter A. Gode

Ray DeLoach

Donald J. [unclear]

Pat Fouchot

Dee [unclear]

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

[unclear] NO REC

[unclear] NO REC

[unclear] NO REC

[unclear] NO REC

Walter A. Gode

CHAIRMAN

STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: _____

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: CSHB 215 (Fin)
Title: State assistance for community health aide programs

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Dept. Health & Social Serv.
Program Category Affected: Public Health

Sponsor: Representative Herrmann

BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: _____

Requestor: House Finance Committee

Date of Request: 3/19/85

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS		416.3	416.3	416.3	416.3	416.3
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		416.3	416.3	416.3	416.3	416.3
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		416.3	416.3	416.3	416.3	416.3
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		416.3	416.3	416.3	416.3	416.3

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page if necessary: The fiscal note reflects the removal of skilled medical observers from the bill in CSHB 215 (Fin). According to Dept. Health & Social Services, Public Health Division, the funding requested for travel, contractual and supplies was associated only with the skilled medical observer portion of the bill. The amounts removed from the grants line are those amounts, (\$40.0: FY 86, \$80.0: FY 87, \$160.0: FY 88, and \$240.0: FY 89/FY 90) shown in the DHSS fiscal note for skilled medical observer grants.

Prepared by: Al Adams-Chairman

Phone: 465-3706

Division: House Finance Committee

Date: March 19, 1985

Approved by Commissioner: _____

Date: _____

Agency: _____

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

7/1/84

Original sponsors: Herrmann, Wallis,
Shultz, et al

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 215 (Finance)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL.

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to state assistance for community
7 health aide programs; and providing for an effective
8 date."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. AS 18 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

11 CHAPTER 28. STATE ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE PROGRAMS.

12 Sec. 18.28.010. COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE GRANTS. (a) A qualified
13 regional health organization is entitled to a grant of \$30,000 each
14 fiscal year for the training and supervision of at least three primary
15 community health aides.

16 (b) During each fiscal year a qualified regional health orga-
17 nization or local health organization is entitled to a grant of \$8,000
18 multiplied by the number of primary community health aides who each
19 week during the previous fiscal year averaged at least 20 hours of
20 service paid for by the health organization, but not to exceed the
21 number of primary community health aides who were employed by the
22 health organization on July 1, 1984.

23 (c) A grant under (b) of this section may be used only for

24 (1) training of primary community health aides, including
25 tuition and travel to training programs;

26 (2) supervision of primary community health aides, includ-
27 ing travel for supervisors;

28 (3) alternate community health aides.

29 (d) The department shall compute and pay a grant under this

1 section within the limits of appropriations made for the purpose.

2 Sec. 18.28.020. QUALIFICATIONS. To qualify for a community
3 health aide grant a regional or local health organization must

4 (1) have received money from the federal government for a
5 community health aide program during the fiscal year for which the
6 grant is sought;

7 (2) provide the services of community health aides on a
8 nondiscriminatory basis for the benefit of the public;

9 (3) apply for the grant in accordance with application
10 requirements of the department or negotiate a contract with the de-
11 partment in lieu of a grant if the regional or local health organi-
12 zation provides other contract services for the state; and

13 (4) supply information requested by the department.

14 Sec. 18.28.030. COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE GRANT ACCOUNT. (a) The
15 community health aide grant account is established in the department.
16 Money to carry out the provisions of this chapter shall be appropri-
17 ated to the account and distributed as community health aide grants or
18 to fund contracts entered into by the department under AS 18.28.-
19 020(3).

20 (b) Each fiscal year the department shall determine the amount
21 of money needed to fund all grants under AS 18.28.010 and contracts
22 under AS 18.28.020(3) during the next fiscal year and shall report
23 that amount to the legislature. If the amount appropriated to the
24 account is not sufficient to finance all grants and contracts, the
25 money shall be distributed pro rata among qualified regional and local
26 health organizations.

27 Sec. 18.28.040. LIABILITY LIMITATION. The state is not liable
28 for any injury that may result from the use of money awarded by the
29 state as a community health aide grant or paid by the state under a

1 contract under this chapter.

2 Sec. 18.28.050. REGULATIONS. The department may adopt regula-
3 tions necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

4 Sec. 18.28.100. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter

5 (1) "alternate community health aide" means a person who
6 assists the primary community health aide when necessary and acts in
7 the absence of the primary community health aide;

8 (2) "community health aide" includes a primary community
9 health aide and an alternate health aide;

10 (3) "department" means the Department of Health and Social
11 Services;

12 (4) "local health organization" means a nonprofit corpo-
13 ration or other entity that provides health services in a rural area
14 that is less than 4,000 square miles;

15 (5) "primary community health aide" means a person who has
16 completed the first of three levels of community health aide training
17 offered by the Norton Sound Health Corporation at the Nome Hospital,
18 the Kuskokwim Community College in Bethel, or the Alaska Area Native
19 Health Service;

20 (6) "regional health organization" means a nonprofit corpo-
21 ration or home rule borough that provides health services in a rural
22 area that is at least 4,000 square miles.

23 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect July 1, 1985.
24
25
26
27
28
29

Fiscal Analysis

SENATE CS FOR CS HB 215 (HESS)

State Assistance for Community Health Aide Programs

Assumptions

Not applicable

Program Summary

This program will require an additional general fund appropriation of \$441.3 in the grants line for Health Grants BRU, Community Health Grants Component in FY 86.

Computation

State assistance to community health aide programs as specified in HB 215 would require a total FY 86 general fund appropriation of \$2,200.0 for grants. This calculation is based upon the following formula.

(1) \$30.0 per regional corporation to be used for expenses of conducting a community health aide program x 12 Corporations	\$ 360.0
(2) \$8.0 per each primary community health aide x 230 Aides	1,840.0
	<u>\$2,200.0</u>

The projected costs are based on incorporating the total amount requested in the House/Senate versions of FY 86 the Operating Budget as an offset for this bill. Current FY 86 budget for this program is as follows:

House

Health Grants BRU, Community Health Grants Component	\$1,388.3
Norton Sound BRU, Health Services Component	103.8
Maniilaq BRU, Health Services Component	<u>266.6</u>
Total FY 86 Budget	\$1,758.7

Senate

Health Grants BRU, Community Health Grants Component	\$ 963.8
Norton Sound BRU, Health Services Component	349.9
Maniilaq BRU, Health Services Component	187.1
Tanana Chiefs Conference BRU, Health Services Component	<u>257.9</u>
Total FY 86 Budget	\$1,758.7

Economic Impact

Not applicable

Impact on Local Government

Not applicable

POSITION PAPER

SENATE CS FOR CS HOUSE BILL NO. 215 (HESS)

For "An Act relating to state assistance for community health aide programs; and providing for an effective date".

This bill provides for expansion of financial assistance to nonprofit health organizations for training and supervision of community health aides. Funding will be provided through a two phased formula that allocates: 1) a \$30,000 base for each regional corporation serving more than 4,000 square miles plus \$8,000 for each primary CHA or similar individual who averages at least 20 hours of service a week; 2) for local entities providing services to less than 4,000 square miles, funding provided through this formula would be limited to \$8,000 per CHA. The bill also establishes a Community Health Aide Grant Account and requires the Department to report the amount necessary to meet the allocations outlined above to the legislature each year.

BACKGROUND

Community Health Aide

Community health aides provide primary health care to approximately 37,000 to 40,000 people in rural communities. A CHA is a community based medical paraprofessional who provides limited diagnostic and treatment services through standing orders or in radio/telephone consultation with Indian Health Service (IHS) or health corporation physicians. Health care training of a CHA is based on a standardized curriculum consisting of three basic sessions plus a preceptorship with a supervising physician at a medical center, periodic on-the-job training with a supervisor/instructor and continuing education sessions. Supervisor/instructors are employed by the corporations and are generally mid-level practitioners or registered nurses who conduct site visits one to three times per year for continuing education, skills evaluation and administration. In addition, state public health nurses provide education and support during their itinerant visits.

The number of CHAs per village varies with population size ranging from a half-time equivalent to a maximum of three. In addition to the primary CHA, alternates are also assigned to provide relief support and coverage during the absence of the primaries. Training for alternate aides varies widely with minimum standards that range from emergency trauma technician skills to completion of the first basic training session.

Historically the CHA program has been sponsored and funded by the federal IHS. This program was begun in 1967 although the concept and practices have a longer history. Until recently, financial support for the program rested solely with the federal government which contracted with regional or local corporations. Starting in FY 82, selected health corporations received designated state grants through direct legislative appropriation for support of CHA supervision and training. This trend has continued through the current

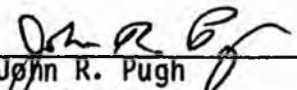
POSITION PAPER/Department of Health & Social Services

fiscal year with approximately \$1,040,000 being used to support programs administered by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation, the Norton Sound Health Corporation, the Maniilaq Association, the Tanana Chiefs Conference, the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corporation, the Aleutian/Pribilof Island Association, the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, the North Pacific Rim and the Copper River Native Association. The FY 86 Governor's Budget request maintains these grants, provides expansion of services to all twelve regional corporations and improves the level of training in selected underfunded corporation areas.

POSITION

The Department of Health and Social Services recognizes the value of community health aides in providing primary medical care in rural communities and, strongly supports the enhancement of supervision and training as provided by this bill.

Approved by:



John R. Pugh
Commissioner
Department of Health and
Social Services

Date:

5/10/85

**STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE**

Revision Date: _____

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No CS/CSHB 215 (HESS)
Title: Assistance for Community
Health Aide Programs
Sponsor: Rep. Herrmann, et al
Requestor:
Date of Request: 5/07/85

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Dept. of Hlth. & Soc. Serv.
Program Category Affected: Public Health
BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected:
Hlth. Grants, BRU/ Comm. Hlth. Grants

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS		441.3	441.3	441.3	441.3	441.3
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		441.3	441.3	441.3	441.3	441.3

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		441.3	441.3	441.3	441.3	441.3
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		441.3	441.3	441.3	441.3	441.3

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page if necessary

See attached.

Prepared By: Robert I Fraser, M.D.
 Division: Public Health

Phone: 465-3090
 Date: 5/09/85

Approved by Commissioner: [Signature]
 Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

Date: 5/10/85

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE
ADELHEID HERRMANN

P.O. BOX 63
NAKNEK, ALASKA 99633
(907) 246-4495

While in Juneau
POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-4942, 465-4943



CHAIRMAN
SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON FISHERIES

MEMBER
TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE

House of Representatives

DISTRICT 26

ADAK
AKUTAN
ALEKNAGIK
ATKA
BELKOFSKI
CLARK'S POINT
COLD BAY
DILLINGHAM
DUTCH HARBOR
EGEGIK
EKUK
EKWOK
FALSE PASS
IGIUGIG
ILIAMNA
KING COVE
KING SALMON
KOKHANOK
KOLIGANEK
LEVELOCK
MANOKOTAK
NAKNEK
NELSON LAGOON
NEWHALEN
NEW STUYAHOK
NIKOLSKI
NONDALTON
PEDRO BAY
PILOT POINT
PORT ALSWORTH
PORT HEIDEN
PORT MOLLER
PORTAGE CREEK
SAND POINT
SOUTH NAKNEK
SQUAW HARBOR
ST. GEORGE
ST. PAUL
TOGIAK
TWIN HILLS
UGASHIK
UNALASKA

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Johne Binkley

FROM: Representative Adelheid Herrmann

DATE: February 19, 1985

SUBJECT: Co-sponsoring the Community Health Aide Bill

Attached is a copy of a draft of the Community Health Aide Bill that I thought you might be interested in co-sponsoring. For your convenience I have also attached a brief summary from my staff that discusses what the legislation does and why it is needed. The Community Health Aide is the central feature of health care delivery in rural areas, and this bill supports them in their efforts for adequate training.

If you have any questions about the bill or how it effects funding your region, please contact me, or Deborah Greenberg, at 465-4942. I hope to introduce this bill tomorrow and appreciate your concern and support.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Adelheid Herrmann

FROM: Deborah L. Greenberg

DATE: February 19, 1985

SUBJECT: Summary and purpose of the 1985 Community Health Aide Legislation

The problem with the Community Health Aide Program is that Community Health Aides (CHAs), who are local people at the forefront of providing primary health care in rural areas, are not able to complete the minimum training for certification.

This is because of a lack of funds for supervision, and a lack of funds to get CHAs trained in an reasonable period of time. This is a big problem because it means that people are practicing as Community Health Aides without the benefit of the minimum available training, and therefore individuals dependent upon their services could be receiving a higher standard of health care delivery.

A lack of training makes the job of a health aide more complicated and stressful and this leads to high turn-over. Periods of high-turnover may mean that no one is available to help people in remote areas with even the most basic health problems.

Federal Indian Health Service funds have never provided for adequate supervision and adequate training of CHAs in a reasonable period of time. This is why health organizations have pursued State funding. These State funds however do not replace federal funds.

The Community Health Aide Bill provides \$30,000 to each of the 12 Regional Health Corporations who administer health care throughout rural Alaska. Previously only 6 of the 12 Regional Health Organizations received state funding for training health aides. The bill establishes an equitable funding formula, and reflects a compromise reached by the 12 Regional Health Directors.

In addition there is an \$8,000 allocation for each CHA in each of the 12 regional corporations and in each of the three Local Health Organizations in Yakutat, Tyonek, and Metlakatla, respectively. These funds cover training and supervision of CHAs and compensation for alternate health aides who take over in the absence of a CHA.

The allocation of \$8,000 per health aide is also made available to a couple of remote communities who historically have not been covered under the Indian Health Service Program, for example, Thorn Bay and Port Alexander.

The fiscal note for the bill will be about \$450,000, which is about 550,000 less than last year's version. The Bill includes a provision freeing the state from any responsibility from injuries that may occur as result of providing these funds.

The CHA program has proved to be a very good way of providing low cost health services to remote and rural areas. The program is low cost for the State and for its recipients. The bill and funds are needed to ensure that an acceptable standard of health care is provided to the state's rural residents.

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY HERRMANN

2 HOUSE BILL NO.

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to state assistance for community
7 health aide programs; and providing for an effective
8 date."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. AS 18 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

11 CHAPTER 28. STATE ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE PROGRAMS.

12 Sec. 18.28.010. COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE GRANTS. (a) A qualified
13 regional health organization is entitled to a grant of \$30,000 each
14 fiscal year for the training and supervision of at least three primary
15 community health aides.

16 (b) During each fiscal year a qualified regional health orga-
17 nization or local health organization is entitled to a grant of \$8,000
18 multiplied by the number of

19 (1) primary community health aides who each week during the
20 previous fiscal year averaged at least 20 hours of service paid for by
21 the health organization, but not to exceed the number of primary
22 community health aides who were employed by the health organization on
23 July 1, 1984; or

24 (2) skilled medical observers who each week during the
25 previous fiscal year averaged at least 20 hours of service paid for by
26 the health organization.

27 (c) A grant under (b) of this section may be used only for

28 (1) training of primary community health aides, including
29 tuition and travel to training programs;

1 (2) supervision of primary community health aides, includ-
2 ing travel for supervisors;

3 (3) alternate community health aides.

4 (d) The department shall compute and pay a grant under this
5 section within the limits of appropriations made for the purpose.

6 Sec. 18.28.020. QUALIFICATIONS. To qualify for a community
7 health aide grant a regional or local health organization must

8 (1) have received money from the federal government for a
9 community health aide program during the fiscal year for which the
10 grant is sought or be engaged in conducting a program that meets
11 standards established by the department and is similar to a community
12 health aide program;

13 (2) provide the services of community health aides on a
14 nondiscriminatory basis for the benefit of the public;

15 (3) apply for the grant in accordance with application
16 requirements of the department or negotiate a contract with the de-
17 partment if the regional or local health organization provides other
18 contract services for the state; and

19 (4) supply information requested by the department.

20 Sec. 18.28.030. COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE GRANT ACCOUNT. (a) The
21 community health aide grant account is established in the department.
22 Money to carry out the provisions of this chapter shall be appropri-
23 ated to the account and distributed as community health aide grants by
24 the department.

25 (b) Each fiscal year the department shall determine the amount
26 of money needed to fund all grants under AS 18.28.010 during the next
27 fiscal year and shall request an appropriation of that amount from the
28 legislature. If the amount appropriated to the account is not suffi-
29 cient to finance all grants, the money shall be distributed pro rata

1 among qualified regional and local health organizations.

2 Sec. 18.28.040. LIABILITY LIMITATION. The state is not liable
3 for any injury that may result from use of money awarded by the state
4 as a community health aide grant.

5 Sec. 18.28.050. REGULATIONS. The department may adopt regula-
6 tions necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

7 Sec. 18.28.100. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter

8 (1) "alternate community health aide" means a person who
9 assists the primary community health aide when necessary and acts in
10 the absence of the primary community health aide;

11 (2) "community health aide" includes a primary community
12 health aide and an alternate health aide;

13 (3) "department" means the Department of Health and Social
14 Services;

15 (4) "local health organization" means a nonprofit corpo-
16 ration or other entity that provides health services in a rural area
17 that is less than 4,000 square miles;

18 (5) "primary community health aide" means a person who has
19 completed the first of three levels of community health aide training
20 offered by the Norton Sound Health Corporation at the Nome Hospital,
21 the Kuskokwim Community College in Bethel, or the Alaska Area Native
22 Health Service;

23 (6) "regional health organization" means a nonprofit corpo-
24 ration or home rule borough that provides health services in a rural
25 area that is at least 4,000 square miles;

26 (7) "skilled medical observer" means a person who

27 (A) has received training comparable to a primary
28 community health aide's training, as required by the department;
29 and

1 (B) provides health services in a community that has
2 no primary health care provider and has insufficient population
3 to qualify for a federally funded community health aide program.
4

5 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect July 1, 1985.
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Alaska
MUNICIPAL
League

TELEPHONES
(907) 586-1325
(907) 586-6526

105 MUNICIPAL WAY, SUITE 301
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FUNDING FOR TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR
COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDES AND PRACTITIONERS

WHEREAS, the Community Health Aide Program is dedicated to the training and supervision of the Community Health Aides and Community Health Practitioners in order to provide primary village health care in a competent fashion, and

WHEREAS, funding is needed for the training of Community Health Aides and Practitioners through their regional health corporations' Community Health Aide Program, and

WHEREAS, we desire to promote the health, safety and well being of the citizens whom we represent;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports State funding for training Community Health Aides and Practitioners.

Adopted this 17th day of November, 1984.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Adelheid Herrmann

FROM: Deborah L. Greenberg, Legislative Aide

DATE: March 4, 1985

SUBJECT: Background Information on the Community Health Aide Program
and House Bill 215

A Community Health Aide, or CHA, is a para-professional health care provider who provides primary health care services in rural Alaska.

The CHAs are the link between rural communities and the appropriate health care back-up system. In many communities, the CHA is the only health care provider. They make the initial assessment of what kind of health problem a patient is having, and by working under the supervision of an Indian Health Service Physician, or other medical professional, may administer certain drugs, put in stitches, help deliver babies, or handle emergency health problems.

Most importantly, the Community Health Aides constitute the brigade of health care workers who work actively throughout rural Alaska to fight the spread of diseases such as hepatitis B, hepatitis A, and tuberculosis. Although the Community Health Aide Program is a rural health care program for communities with limited health care professionals, the work of Community Health Aides benefits the whole state. Preventing outbreaks of disease in rural areas, is an important factor in preventing statewide epidemics of contagious diseases.

As local people, the Community Health Aides can operate swiftly and effectively in reaching rural residents to administer vaccines. As local residents familiar with the problems in the communities where they work, the CHAs can break the ground in educating rural residents about how to prevent health problems and disease. For example, their role in preventive health care and health care education has helped decrease the incidence in infants of otitis media, which is a middle ear infection.

To become certified a Community Health Aide must complete three ten-week academic courses, serve in the field under the supervision of a physician, or other trained medical professional, and complete a rigorous examination. The courses are given at the Alaska Area Native Health Service in Anchorage, at the Norton Sound Health Corporation in Nome, and at the Kuskokwim Community College in Bethel.

The courses include learning how to make initial assessments of a medical situation, the administering of primary health care, and some training in handling emergency situations.

The problems with certification are that it takes too long to complete all the steps. A CHA may complete the first course, and then it might not be another year or two before there is enough funding to send a CHA back for the second and third course.

Representative Herrmann
March 4, 1985
Page Two

There are more delays in completing the "preceptorship", or the field internship, because of a lack of funds for the supervising physicians or other trained health care professionals to travel and oversee the CHAs. By practicing without certification, the State can not be assured of providing an acceptable level of health care to rural areas.

The other problem with not being certified, is that CHAs often work under a great deal of pressure, and without the proper training it leads to a great deal of frustration that leads to a high rate of turn-over among CHAs. The turn-over rate can lead to long period where a community has no health care personnel available. Bringing on someone new requires training them again.

Currently there are about 227 CHAs in the State and less than half of them are certified. These CHAs serve over 40,000 residents of all ethnic backgrounds in about 171 rural communities throughout the State.

The bill and the funding it provides would help solve the problems with the CHA program. Funding would be adequate to send CHAs in for courses and training in a timely fashion. By providing monies for physicians and other trained personnel to travel to rural areas it would be possible for CHAs to complete their preceptorships, receive the training they need and operate more effectively because of the supervision. In short the funds could pay for the necessary tuition and travel, for supervision and for alternate community health aides.

Federal funds have never been adequate for a CHA to complete the training, preceptorship, and pass the exam in an expeditious fashion. The State funds do not replace federal funds but help do what the federal funds have never done.

Currently there is a lack of standardization in the Community Health Aide Program throughout the State. There is a disparity between those regions who have been able to secure funding to get CHAs through the certification process, and those who have not. There is a disparity between those regions who have been able to secure state funding for alternates and those who have not.

House Bill 215 helps overcome this disparity by providing an equitable funding formula. Under the provisions of the bill the funds that were previously made available to only a few regions will now be shared among all the regions.

The bill would allow the state regulate Community Health Aides, and at the same time increase their level of performance by providing the funds necessary for CHAs to achieve certification.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Adelheid Herrmann

FROM: Deborah L. Greenberg

DATE: February 19, 1985

SUBJECT: Summary and purpose of the 1985 Community Health Aide Legislation

The problem with the Community Health Aide Program is that Community Health Aides (CHAs), who are local people at the forefront of providing primary health care in rural areas, are not able to complete the minimum training for certification.

This is because of a lack of funds for supervision, and a lack of funds to get CHAs trained in an reasonable period of time. This is a big problem because it means that people are practicing as Community Health Aides without the benefit of the minimum available training, and therefore individuals dependent upon their services could be receiving a higher standard of health care delivery.

A lack of training makes the job of a health aide more complicated and stressful and this leads to high turn-over. Periods of high-turnover may mean that no one is available to help people in remote areas with even the most basic health problems.

Federal Indian Health Service funds have never provided for adequate supervision and adequate training of CHAs in a reasonable period of time. This is why health organizations have pursued State funding. These State funds however do not replace federal funds.

The Community Health Aide Bill provides \$30,000 to each of the 12 Regional Health Corporations who administer health care throughout rural Alaska. Previously only 6 of the 12 Regional Health Organizations received state funding for training health aides. The bill establishes an equitable funding formula, and reflects a compromise reached by the 12 Regional Health Directors.

In addition there is an \$8,000 allocation for each CHA in each of the 12 regional corporations and in each of the three Local Health Organizations in Yakutat, Tyonek, and Metlakatla, respectively. These funds cover training and supervision of CHAs and compensation for alternate health aides who take over in the absence of a CHA.

The allocation of \$8,000 per health aide is also made available to a couple of remote communities who historically have not been covered under the Indian Health Service Program, for example, Thorn Bay and Port Alexander.

The fiscal note for the bill will be about \$450,000, which is about 550,000 less than last year's version. The Bill includes a provision freeing the state from any responsibility from injuries that may occur as result of providing these funds.

The CHA program has proved to be a very good way of providing low cost health services to remote and rural areas. The program is low cost for the State and for its recipients. The bill and funds are needed to ensure that an acceptable standard of health care is provided to the state's rural residents.

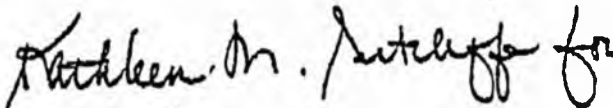
BACKUP AND LETTERS OF SUPPORT FROM 1985

The Honorable Max Gruenberg
Co-Chairman House HESS
Page Two
March 4, 1985

While most of us cannot be physically present for the Tuesday HESS hearing of HB 215, we are in unanimous agreement that a strong Community Health Aide program is the critical link in and an essential prerequisite for the success of every component of the rural health care delivery system.

The passage of House Bill 215 will assure that all rural Alaskans receive the high quality medical care that they deserve.

Sincerely,



Association of Regional Health Directors

Niles Cesar, President
Association of Regional Health Directors

Association of Regional Health Directors
of Alaska

Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association, Inc.
1689 "C" Street, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-2700
Kathleen M. Sutcliffe, Health Director

Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation
P.O. Box 10235
Dillingham, Alaska 99576
(907) 842-5101
Robert Clark, Health Director

Cook Inlet Native Association
670 West Fireweed Lane
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 278-4641
Jennifer Biusquet, Health Director

Copper River Health Department
Drawer H
Copper Center, Alaska 99573
(907) 822-5241
Ms. Billie Peters, Health Director

Kodiak Area Native Association
P.O. Box 172
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
(907) 486-5726
Willie Wolf, Health Director

Manilaq Association
P.O. Box 256
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
(907) 442-3313
Nina Dahl, Health Director

The North Pacific Rim
611 East Twelfth
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-2121
Dick Rolland, Health Director

North Slope Borough Health and
Social Services Agency
P.O. Box 69
Barrow, Alaska 99723
(907) 852-3999
Mike Stackhouse, Health Director

Norton Sound Health Corporation
P.O. Box 966
Nome, Alaska 99762
(907) 443-5411
Carolyn Michals, Health Director

Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corporation
P.O. Box 2800
Juneau, Alaska 99803
(907) 789-2131
Niles Cesar, President

Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.
1321 - 21st Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 452-2446
David Mather, Health Director

Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation
P.O. Box 528
Bethel, Alaska 99559
(907) 543-3321
George Paratrovich, Health Director

Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation
P.O. Box 528
Bethel, Alaska 99559
(907) 543-3321
Diane Silimperi, M.D.
Medical Director

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.
1984 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION NO. 84-34

TITLE: COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE TRAINING.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Community Health Aides are the backbone of health care delivery in rural and bush Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Community Health Aides provide services to approximately 40,000 Alaska residents, Native and non-Native alike; and

WHEREAS, Non-Native people are not being served by Community Health Aides when no other services are available, thereby reducing resources potentially available to Native beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, current training levels for Community Health Aides are unequal throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska, through its public health agents, has asserted the desirability of the State in supporting the efforts of the Community Health Aide Program for the purpose of maintaining high quality, equitable care to all Alaska residents; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has already committed philosophically and financially, to support Community Health Aide Training in about half the State, thereby creating inequity and lack of stability in the State's relationship with that program,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives supports passage of legislation which would provide equitable financial support for Community Health Aide training and supervision throughout the State of Alaska.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



STATE OF ALASKA


MEMBER
FINANCE COMMITTEE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES



FOUCH V
JUNEAU ALASKA 99811
907-465-4137
PO BOX 1068
BETHEL ALASKA 99557
907-543-2922

REPRESENTATIVE JOHNE BINKLEY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Adelheid Herrmann
FROM: Representative John Binkley 
DATE: March 1, 1985
RE: House Bill 215 - Community Health Aides

Attached is a copy of information we received just yesterday from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation which will serve as back-up for House Bill 215 concerning community health aides. If you have questions please feel free to call my offices.



FEB 28 1985

Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

"Fostering Native Self-Determination in Primary Care, Prevention and Health Promotion"

February 20, 1985

Representative John Binkley
Capitol Room 501
State Capitol
Pouch V
Juneau, Ak 99811

Dear Representative Binkley;

We appreciate the time and consideration given to our presentation on February 14th, as well as your attendance at the Bush Caucus meeting with the Area Regional Health Directors.

As you are aware, the passage of the Health Aide Bill is critical to the survival of our Community Health Aide Program. Your support of this Bill would constitute a significant contribution toward its legislative passage. However, as we described to you, were the Bill to fail, our Program would, nonetheless, require State funding for its maintenance. We are, therefore, submitting the enclosed proposal per our discussion on Feb. 14th. Thank you for your attention to this matter which clearly has the potential to seriously jeopardize the health care service provided to the people of the YK Delta. If additional questions should arise, please let us know.

Respectfully,

Diana R. Silimperi

Diana R. Silimperi MD
Medical Director

George Peratrovich

George Peratrovich
Executive Director

Enclosure

YUKON KUSKOKWIM HEALTH CORPORATION
COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE PROGRAM

Submitted: February, 1985
D. Silimperi MD
Medical Director
G. Peratovich
Executive Director

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