

AK LEGISLATURE FINANCE COMMITTEES FILES 2007-2008 3359

Thursday, February 14, 2008

SB 255-SNETTISHAM REFUNDING BONDS

New FN DCCED

Copied Posted

Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Sarah FisherGoad, Deputy Director, Operations, Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, (AIDEA), Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Valorie Walker, Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, (AIDEA)

SB 196-PRESCRIPTION DATABASE

Amendment 1 25-LS1092\K.1 for SB 196

New DCCED FN changes funding from capital to operating

Ginger Blaisdell, Staff, Sen Green

State Employees:

Jennifer Strickler, Director, Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, DCCED

Brian Howes, Investigator, Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing (Board of Pharmacy), DCCED

David Campana, DHSS Medicaid pharmacist

William "Bill" Streur, Deputy Commissioner for Medicaid, DHSS

John Glass, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Safety

Keith Mallard, Captain ABADU Unit (Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement), Dept of Public Safety

Lauren Rice, Legislative Liaison, Dept of Public Safety

Others:

David Logan, past president, AK Dental Society

Nancy Davis, Executive Director, AK Pharmacists Association

Lis Houchen, National Association of Chain Drug Stores

Linda Barefoot, Purdue Pharma, pharmaceutical corporation representative

Ron Miller, Pharmacist, Safeway Pharmacies

Patricia Senner, Nurse Practitioner, Chair of AK Nurse's Association Legislative Committee

Deborah Kiley, Nurse Practitioner, pain clinic

Caren Robinson, Lobbyist for AK Pharmacists Association

Barry Christensen, Pharmacist, Island Pharmacy (Ketchikan), Board of Directors, AK Pharmacists Association

AT 2/14/08

25-LS1092K.1
Luckhaupt
2/12/08

AMENDMENT

1

RECEIVED
FEB 12 2008

OFFERED IN THE SENATE
TO: CSSB 196(L&C)

1 Page 5, lines 18 - 22:

2 Delete all material and insert:

3 "(i) A person

4 (1) with authority to access the database under (d) of this section who
5 knowingly

6 (A) accesses information in the database beyond the scope of
7 the person's authority commits a class A misdemeanor;

8 (B) accesses information in the database and knowingly
9 discloses that information to a person not entitled to access or to receive the
10 information commits a class C felony;

11 (C) allows another person who is not authorized to access the
12 database to access the database commits a class C felony;

13 (2) without authority to access the database under (d) of this section
14 who knowingly accesses the database or knowingly receives information that the
15 person is not authorized to receive under (d) of this section from another person
16 commits a class C felony."

17

18 Page 5, following line 26:

19 Insert a new paragraph to read:

20 "(3) "knowingly" has the meaning given in AS 11.81.900;"

21

22 Renumber the following paragraph accordingly.

Marilyn Dize

From: Louanne Christian
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 4:22 PM
To: Marilyn Dize
Cc: Darwin Peterson
Subject: testifiers

These are anticipated testifiers, but all may not show.

Thursday, February 14, 2008 9:00

SB 196-PRESCRIPTION DATABASE

25-LS1092\K.1 for SB 196

Copied Posted (not giving power point, as backup only, copied for table)

Ginger Blaisdell, Staff, Sen Green

State Employees:

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John Glass, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Safety

Keith Mallard, Captain ABADE Unit (Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement), Dept of Public Safety

Lauren Rice, Legislative Liaison, Dept of Public Safety

Others probably by Teleconference

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Barry Christensen, Pharmacist, Island Pharmacy (Ketchikan), Board of Directors, AK Pharmacists Association

SB 255-SNETTISHAM REFUNDING BONDS

2/13/2008

Elton
New FN DCCED
Copied Posted

Teleconference

Sarah FisherGoad, Deputy Director, Operations, Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, (AIDEA), Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Valorie Walker, Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, (AIDEA)

SB

201

HFIN

FILE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: CSSB 201(STA)
(S) Publish Date: 2/13/08

Identifier (file name): SB201-DOA-DOF-1-28-08 Dept. Affected: Administration
Title: "An act relating to establishment and maintenance of an RDU Centralized Admin Services
Internet website providing public finance information..." Component: Finance
Sponsor: Senators Wielechowski and Ellis
Requester: _____ Component Number: 59

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

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

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The Division of Finance is currently building such a website at the direction of Governor Palin. The source of the financial information will be the State's new Alaska Data Enterprise Reporting System (ALDER), which is currently in field testing by State departments.

This project has been incorporated into the Division of Finance ongoing workload. Therefore, no additional funding needs are anticipated.

Prepared by: Kim Garner, Director
Division: Finance
Approved by: Kevin Brooks, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Administration

Phone: 465-3435
Date/Time: 1/28/08 10:00 AM
Date: 1/28/2008

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Co-chair
Joint Armed Services Committee

Member
Resources Committee
Judiciary Committee
Transportation Committee

Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@legis.state.ak.us

SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI

Sponsor Statement: SB 201 The Alaska Open Government Act

The intent of S.B. 201, the Alaska Open Government Act, is to create a free, searchable website that provides Alaskans with easy access to detailed and comprehensive information on state spending. This will encourage better understanding of state operations and, ultimately, ensure that funding is directed to the state's most important needs.

Across the country, taxpayers are clamoring for better information and greater accountability from government. The federal government recently posted its expenditures online at www.federalspending.gov, following passage of the bipartisan Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act. In 2007, five states (Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, Minnesota and Hawaii) passed similar legislation calling for the creation of on-line databases with their state's expenditures. Seventeen other states are currently considering "taxpayer transparency acts," including Washington, New Mexico, Kentucky, Michigan, Illinois, Georgia, and Colorado.

SB 201 will give Alaskans easy access to detailed information on state expenditures and revenue, empowering them to become fiscal watchdogs. It will lead to greater government accountability and a public better able to assist in making difficult government decisions.

Please join me in supporting this much needed legislation.

AMENDMENT

WITHDRAWN

520

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE
TO: CS SB 201 (FIN)

BY REPRESENTATIVE HAWKER

- 1 Page 1, line 7, following SHORT TITLE
- 2 Delete "This Act may be known as the Alaska Open Government Act."
- 3 Insert "This Act may be known as the Alaska Clear and Transparent Open Access to
- 4 Alaskan State Government Financing for Dummies Act."

Benefits of the Alaska Open Government Act

*Thomas Jefferson's thoughts on
government transparency (from
1802):*

"We might hope to see the finances of the Union as clear and intelligible as a merchant's books, so that every member of Congress and every man of any mind in the Union should be able to comprehend them, to investigate abuses, and consequently to control them."



AMERICANS for TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist
President

January 30, 2008

Dear Committee Member,

I write to urge you to lend your support to SB 201, the Open Government Act sponsored by Sen. Bill Wielechowski.

The Open Government Act would create a single, searchable Internet website providing comprehensive information on state government finance -- both revenues and expenditures greater than \$10,000, including, but not limited to grants and contracts. This measure would provide an important step towards greater fiscal accountability.

Since the passage of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 which resulted in the creation of www.USASpending.gov, Americans for Tax Reform has been working with policymakers and activists around the country to pass legislation and get executive orders signed that emulate and ideally go beyond the federal legislation.

In 2007, five states (Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and to a more limited extent Minnesota and Hawaii) passed legislation that mandates the creation of comprehensive websites for state expenditures. In most cases, these bills enjoyed broad bipartisan support. Several other states including Texas, Missouri, South Carolina, and, just this month, Louisiana have already taken executive action or are looking to do so.

Several of the websites mandated by legislative or executive action have already gone live, and provide taxpayers with an opportunity to track their tax dollars at a mouse click. Among these are Texas, Oklahoma and Missouri, and all these sites have been very well received so far.

This spending transparency effort is consistent with the Founding Fathers' notion of accountable government: It was Thomas Jefferson, who once said "We might hope to see the finances of the Union as clear and intelligible as a merchant's book, so that every member of Congress and every man of any mind in the Union should be able to comprehend them, to investigate abuses, and consequently to control them."

Creating such a website would provide Alaska taxpayers with a tool to access, search and easily find relevant spending information, and ultimately foster a better understanding of the ways in which government operates. Ultimately, it would help reduce fraud, waste and abuse. Opacity in the way government spends tax dollars often leaves taxpayers frustrated, and can create the perception of possible abuse of the system.

More public scrutiny will help eliminate impropriety in dealing with taxpayer dollars -- be it perceived or real impropriety.

Because it goes back to one of the most fundamental principles -- accountability -- this movement has broad bipartisan support. This is not a Right-Left issue, it is a Right-Wrong issue. There may not be agreement on how the money should be spent, but there is agreement that taxpayers should be able to scrutinize government expenditures. In today's digital age, there is no justification for keeping taxpayers in the dark as to how their tax dollars are being spent.

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www.atr.org

The founding fathers had the vision, and today, we have the tools at our disposal to make that vision a reality – at little cost to taxpayers:

- *The Missouri Accountability Portal, an expenditure website created via executive order by Gov. Matt Blunt, was created without the appropriation of a single additional tax dollar*
- *The Oklahoma website, which just went live on December 28, 2007 and can be accessed at www.openbooks.ok.gov, initially carried a price tag of \$300,000. In the end the implementing agency reported that the website cost only \$8,000 plus expended staff time.*
- *Even the federal grant and contract website which was unveiled in December and is accessible at www.USASpending.gov was put together at a price tag of less than \$1 million - and that covers grants and contracts of the entire federal government. The software that was used to create the federal site will soon be available as open source software.*
- *Companies like Google and Microsoft have offered to partner with states in their endeavours to make government spending information more accessible, helping to further defray cost.*

One thing we suggest should be considered as this bill moves forward, is to drop the \$10,000 threshold for disclosure, and to include of the actual expenditure document – the grant, contract, or purchase order for example. This would help taxpayers to get an even clearer picture of how their tax dollars are spent.

With this bill, Alaska has the opportunity to empower its taxpayers, and that is an opportunity that should not be missed.

Americans for Tax Reform urges your support for SB 201 and is looking forward to working with you to advancing accountability and transparency for the sake of Alaska taxpayers.

Onward,



Grover Norquist

Alaska opens checkbook to public

By Pat Forgey | JUNEAU EMPIRE

Alaskans who want to make sure their state government is spending their money wisely can now rummage through the state's checkbook, and see what they can find.

The new Online Checkbook feature in the state's Web site lets the public look through listings of all the bills paid and grants awarded by the state government in the last six months.

"It's a very, very good tool for Alaskans to see where their money is going," said Gov. Sarah Palin at a press conference Monday.

It's a new government program that both ends of the political spectrum agree is needed. National anti-tax advocate Grover Norquist of Americans for Tax Reform and liberal Ralph Nader both support the plans to improve transparency in state government. Norquist testified before a legislative committee supporting the effort, as did Steve Cleary of the Alaska Public Interest Research Group.

Visitors to the Online Checkbook site can look up all the checks and payments made by the state so far this fiscal year, with some notable exceptions. Public employee salary information, while legally public, is not on the site. Nor are payments of less than \$1,000.

Sen. Bill Wielechowski, D-Anchorage, praised the effort Monday.

"I think there are going to be times when elected officials would rather not have this online, but it holds us accountable," he said.

Among those interested in the Online Checkbook are likely to be businesses, which may want to see how much the state is paying their competitors, he said. Those businesses may even underbid their competitors the next time around, and save the state some money.

Wielechowski said other states that have made similar efforts have gotten millions of hits on their Web sites. He brought the idea for a bill requiring the Online Checkbook to the Palin administration and got a positive response.

"They came back to us and said, 'You don't need the bill. We'll just go ahead and do it ourselves,'" he said.

Wielechowski said he's still planning to go ahead with his bill, however, and said elected officials should make the call - and take the heat - about what should and should not go online.

Requiring the state to post the information online ensures that it will remain there, even when administrations change, he said.

"If the Legislature has a say, it gives it permanence," he said. "Look at how many things Palin has reversed that (former Gov. Frank) Murkowski did."

Wielechowski said Department of Administration staff who put the information online exceeded expectation., but said the early version needs more work.

"It's a good start, but it's a little rough," he said. He said he'd like to see aggregated data and more specificity. In some cases, it is difficult to tell what a bill is for.

"We'll continue to refine the tool and respond to suggestions for improvement," said Annette Kreitzer, commissioner of the Department of Administration.

Information from the site can be downloaded in both spreadsheet and PDF formats, with additional lookup and analysis options under consideration, state officials say.

- Contact reporter Pat Forgey at 586-4816 or patrick.forgev@juneauempire.com.

SB

201

SFIN

FILE

*Adopted
3/21/08*

25-LS1135N
Bailey
3/20/08

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 201()

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

BY

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): SENATORS WIELECHOWSKI, Ellis

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the establishment and maintenance of an Internet website providing**
2 **public finance information; and identifying the information to be available on the**
3 **Internet website."**

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 *** Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
6 to read:

7 **SHORT TITLE.** This Act may be known as the Alaska Open Government Act.

8 *** Sec. 2.** AS 37.05.210(a) is amended to read:

9 (a) The Department of Administration shall

10 (1) file with the governor and with the legislative auditor before
11 December 16 a report of the financial transactions of the preceding fiscal year and of
12 the financial condition of the state as of the end of that year, prepared in accordance
13 with generally accepted accounting principles and audited by the legislative auditor in
14 accordance with generally accepted audit standards, with comments and

1 supplementary data that the Department of Administration considers necessary; this
2 report shall be printed for the information of the legislature and the public and shall
3 be available electronically for use in the public finance Internet website under
4 AS 37.05.215;

5 (2) compile statistics necessary for the budget and other statistics
6 required by the governor;

7 (3) file a travel and compensation report with the legislature by
8 January 31 of each year containing detailed information for the previous calendar year
9 of the salaries, per diem, travel expenses, relocation expenses, and any additional
10 allowances for

11 (A) the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the chiefs of
12 staff of the governor and lieutenant governor;

13 (B) the president and vice-president of the University of Alaska
14 and the chancellors of the individual campuses of the university;

15 (C) the commissioners or other executive heads of the principal
16 departments in the executive branch of state government, and the deputy
17 commissioners and division directors in those departments; and

18 (D) the executive heads of public corporations created by law,
19 including the Alaska Railroad Corporation.

20 * **Sec. 3.** AS 37.05 is amended by adding a new section to article 2 to read:

21 **Sec. 37.05.215. Public finance Internet website.** (a) The Department of
22 Administration shall develop, operate, and maintain a searchable Internet website that
23 is accessible to the public at no cost and that provides financial information available
24 from the central accounting system or the annual financial report prepared and filed
25 under AS 37.05.210(a)(1) describing

26 (1) state revenue for the preceding month, including

27 (A) a receipt or deposit by a state agency into a fund or account
28 established within the state treasury;

29 (B) proceeds from taxes received, including a compulsory
30 contribution imposed by the state for the purpose of financing services;

31 (C) agency earnings, including amounts collected for sales or

1 services, licenses or permits issued, or otherwise received by an agency under
2 the agency's regulations;

3 (D) revenue received for the use of state money or property,
4 including interest and lease payments;

5 (E) gifts, donations, and federal receipts; and

6 (F) other revenue;

7 (2) expenditures for the preceding month, including

8 (A) the name and location of any person to whom payment was
9 made;

10 (B) the amount of the expenditure disbursed;

11 (C) the type of transaction, by account code, including the
12 purpose of the expenditure;

13 (D) other information specified by the department;

14 (3) state revenue and expenditures, summarized for the preceding
15 fiscal year, as follows:

16 (A) general fund revenue sources;

17 (B) general fund expenditures categorized by function;

18 (C) general fund expenditures categorized by department;

19 (D) general fund expenditures categorized by account; and

20 (E) total general fund revenue versus expenditures;

21 (4) total assets versus liabilities at the end of the fiscal year;

22 (5) the fiscal year-end balance for each state fund; and

23 (6) for the preceding 10 years, by fiscal year, the following:

24 (A) the number of full-time employees employed by the state;

25 (B) the total long-term debt owed by the state;

26 (C) total general fund expenditures; and

27 (D) total general fund payroll.

28 (b) The Department of Administration shall update the information described
29 in (a)(1) and (2) of this section on the Internet website on a monthly basis and the
30 information described in (a)(3) - (6) of this section on an annual basis.

31 (c) The Department of Revenue and other state agencies that use the central

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accounting system shall provide information to the Department of Administration that is necessary to comply with the requirements of this section.

(d) Nothing in this section requires disclosure of information that is confidential under state or federal law. However, the Department of Administration shall provide aggregated or summarized information describing confidential revenue and expenditures if the aggregated or summarized information continues to protect confidentiality.

(e) In this section,

(1) "expenditure" means a payment from the state treasury that is greater than \$1,000 and that is made as a grant, subgrant, contract, subcontract, loan, lease, cooperative agreement, purchase order, task order, delivery order, or other form of financial transaction; however, "expenditure" does not include the transfer of money between state agencies, individual payments to state employees or retirees, or payment of state or federal assistance to an individual;

(2) "searchable Internet website" means an Internet website that allows searching, extracting, compiling, and aggregating information from the data available on the website.

* Sec. 4. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

DELAYED AVAILABILITY. The Internet website established under AS 37.05.215, added by sec. 3 of this Act, shall be available to the public on or before October 1, 2009.

* Sec. 5. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS. The initial Internet website established under AS 37.05.215, added by sec. 3 of this Act, must, notwithstanding the requirements of AS 37.05.215(a), list information from the previous fiscal year. Beginning on October 1, 2010, the list shall be updated monthly or annually, as specified.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@legis.state.ak.us

SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI

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SB 201 will give Alaskans easy access to detailed information on state expenditures and revenue, empowering them to become fiscal watchdogs. It will lead to greater government accountability and a public better able to assist in making difficult government decisions.

Please join me in supporting this much needed legislation.



Window on State Government

A Close Look at Your Money at Work for Texas

Susan Combs
Texas Comptroller
of Public Accounts



Search
[\(More info about search\)](#)

[Home](#)
[Help](#)

Start Here to View State Expenditures



Best Practices for Government Purchases

Governments today face a tough challenge to do more with less. But dedicated men and women across the nation are finding innovative ways to do just that. Explore the success stories.



Glossary of Terms: What the Words Mean

State finance personnel have their own specific language, and it can be a little confusing to those unfamiliar with it. Here we'll review some basic terminology to help you get oriented while you review state expenditures.

Where the Money Goes.

As Texas Comptroller, I'm responsible for safeguarding the hard-earned dollars Texans pay in taxes. And I want them to have a clear and transparent view into how those dollars are spent.

I'm pleased to announce that we have added new tools to this site that allow you to examine state spending at an unprecedented level of detail. With these tools, you can track individual agency expenditures, examine purchases by type of item and pinpoint recipients of state funds, giving you the clearest picture yet of state spending patterns.

Greater clarity and detail on state spending will help agencies and citizens alike to see how the money is being spent—and how to spend it as wisely as possible. By sharing information and shedding new light on state spending, we can continuously spot ways to combine resources, pursue more effective purchasing strategies and set the bar for saving taxpayer dollars. Texans deserve no less.

Susan Combs
Texas Comptroller

State of Texas Net Expenditures, Fiscal Year 2007



Text alternative for State of Texas Net Expenditures, Fiscal Year 2007



Spotlight on Savings

The Asset Management division of The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center recently converted a decommissioned mobile mammography van into a blood donor mobile unit, saving more than \$100,000 off the cost of a new one.



Did you know?

State spending directly supports about 173,800 jobs in state government other than higher education, 51,100 jobs in state higher education institutions, and 204,800 jobs in local school districts.

From Sen. Wieleckowski's office



Susan Combs
Texas Comptroller
of Public Accounts

Window on State Government

A Close Look at Your Money at Work for Texas



(More info about search)

Home

Help



Best Practices for Government Purchases

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View State Expenditures

As part of our continuing effort to set new standards for transparency and accountability in state government, the Comptroller's office now provides four different ways to examine state spending. For a fuller explanation and examples of the categories employed in these search tools, please see our **Glossary**. You may also want to read about Confidential Expenditures.

Search by Agency

Use this search to find out how much individual state agencies, colleges and universities spend, and what they're buying. First, choose the agency you're interested in, and select the fiscal year you wish to examine. (You can even narrow your search to a single month.) Then browse through the agency's spending by category - expenditures grouped by a common or similar purpose. Click on a category to see expenditures broken down even further, by object code, a more specific and tightly defined grouping.

Search by Recipient

Use this search to see who's receiving the state's money. First, choose the fiscal year you wish to examine, or a specific month within that year, and then enter the name of a person or company. We'll show you which state agencies paid that entity, how much and when, and group the data by expenditure category or object code.

Search by Category and Object of Expenditure

Use this search to see all agency expenditures in broad spending categories (category and object codes). This option provides a deep look into state spending with lots of drill-down options, such as viewing overall expenditures by month and drilling down for details on all vendors paid by one agency.

Search by Class and Item

Use this search to take an even closer look at purchases made by some of the largest state agencies. Choose a fiscal year and an agency to examine, and we'll show you its purchases by class and code as defined by the National Institute of Governmental Purchasers (NIGP). These categories provide the most detailed information available on state spending. State agency contacts and comments for this search.

Help for the above searches

Some information has been designated as confidential by the submitting agency, per Texas Government Code Section 403.024(d). If you have questions concerning this particular expenditure, you may contact the submitting state agency's open records contact. If you have questions concerning this provision, please contact the Comptroller's Open Records manager at open.records@cpa.state.tx.us.



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Did you know?

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Virginia

- Data Point Home
- Expenditures**
 - State Government
 - Local Government
 - Small Purchase Charge Card
- Search
- Analysis**
 - General Fund Spending by Locality
- Revenues**
 - State Government
 - Local Government
- Budget**
 - State Government
- Demographics**
 - Population
 - Flood Stamps
 - Income
 - Workforce
 - Schools
 - License and Vehicle
- About Data Point
- Data Update Schedule
- APA Home
- Virginia Home

Where Does Your Money Go?

The Commonwealth of Virginia records its budget receipts and expenses by using two broad categories: 1) the general fund and 2) non-general funds.

The general fund revenues are mostly direct general taxes paid by citizens and businesses in Virginia such as income and sales tax. Because general fund revenues support a variety of government programs, these are funds that the Governor and the General Assembly have the most discretion to spend.

Non-general funds are receipts set aside for specific purposes. For example, motor vehicle and gasoline taxes are earmarked by law for transportation programs, student tuition and fees must support higher education, and federal grants support specific federal mandated activities.

The graphics below display the major sources of revenues and the main areas of budget for the upcoming fiscal year. There is also a link to display the distribution of your taxes to general fund programs, and how those taxes pay for all Commonwealth programs.

Where Does The General Fund Money Come From?

The graphic below displays the major categories of actual general fund revenues from fiscal year 2007. The spending of these funds, as you will see below under "Where does the general fund money go?" is at the discretion of the Governor and the General Assembly. The "Other Taxes" category consists mainly of estate taxes, alcoholic beverage taxes, electric consumption taxes, and the malt beverage taxes. The "Other Revenues" category consists mainly of interest on state money, circuit court clerks fees, court processing fees, and the profits from alcoholic beverage sales.

Individual Income Tax: 61% Corporate Income Tax: 6% Lottery Proceeds: 3% Insurance Premiums: 2%



Sales and Use Tax: 19%

Wills and Deeds Recordation: 4%

Other Revenues: 6%

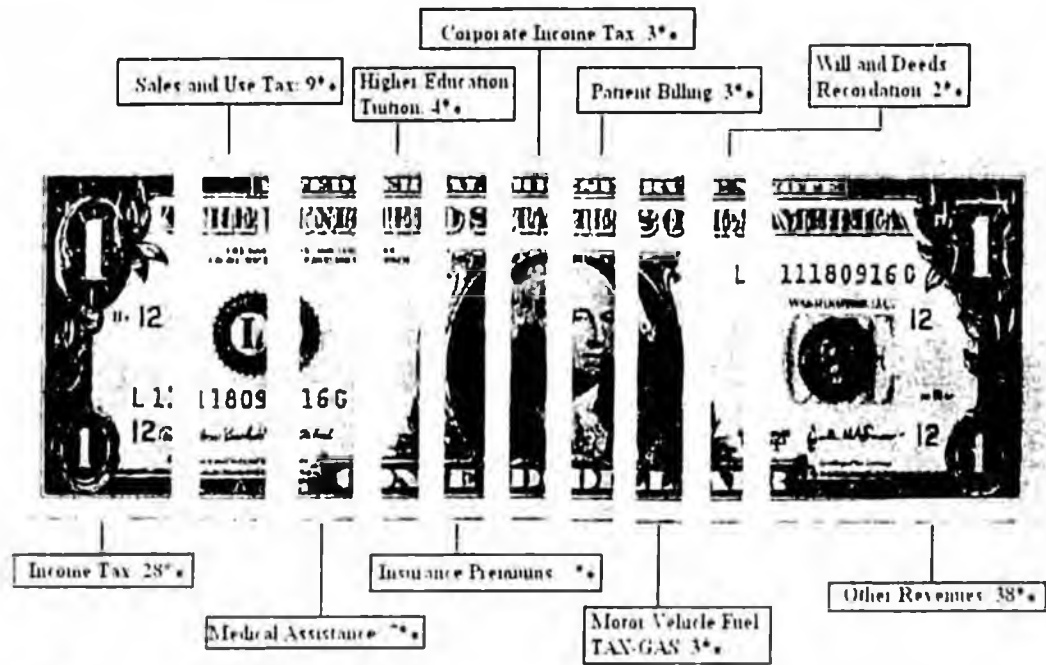


Click icon for FY2009 - FY2007 General Fund Revenue Percentages

Source: Commonwealth Accounting and Reporting System and 2007 Virginia State Treasury Report

Where Do All State Revenues Come From?

The graphic below displays the major categories of all state revenues from fiscal year 2007. About 54% of these revenues are set aside for specific purposes such as transportation, federal grants, etc. The other 46% are at the discretion of the Governor and General Assembly, as shown above under "Where does the general fund money come from?" The "Other Revenues" category here consists of various small revenues, with the largest of these being highway planning and construction receipts related to welfare activities, motor vehicle sales and use tax, alcoholic beverage sales, and unemployment compensation payroll tax.



Click icon for FY2003 - FY2007 Total Revenue Percentages

Source: Commonwealth Accounting and Reporting System and 2007 Virginia Acts of Assembly, Chapter 847

Where Do The General Fund Revenues Go?

Here you may enter the amount of individual income tax, sales and use tax, or other direct taxes paid by an entity or individual to the state of Virginia for fiscal year 2007. A graphic will display showing the distribution of where these revenues were dispersed.

Enter Taxes Paid: \$

Where Do All State Revenues Go?

Here you may enter the amount of taxes, fees, or any other payment made by an entity or individual to the state of Virginia in fiscal year 2007. A graphic will display showing the distribution of where these revenues were dispersed. This breakdown includes expenditures relating to all revenues collected by the state of Virginia, even if earmarked for a specific purpose.

Enter Amounts Paid: \$

[Return to Top](#)

[Commonwealth DataPoint Home](#)

Missouri

[Contact Information](#) | [Site Information](#) | [Printer Friendly](#) | [Help](#)



Missouri Accountability Portal

EXPENDITURES

MATT BLUNT, GOVERNOR

[MAP Home](#) | [Employees](#) | [Expenditures](#) | [Tax Credits](#) | ["Who Is Not Paying?"](#)

[Home](#) > [Expenditures](#) > [Category](#)

Payments by Category

[Search By Agency](#) ▶

[Search By Category](#) ▶

[Search By Contract](#) ▶

[Search By Vendor](#) ▶

Fiscal Year (ending June 30th)

You may need to scroll to the bottom of the page to view all data.

[Prior Year Check Cancellations](#) ▶

Category Descriptions for Fiscal Year 2008 (as of February 19, 2008)

Click a category description to view payment detail information. (18 item(s) returned)

Category Description	Payments Total
BUILDING LEASE PAYMENTS	\$24,920,330.46
COMMUNICATION SERVICE & SUPPLIES	\$23,946,966.00
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	\$18,429,751.76
DEBT SERVICE	\$256,758,365.89
EQUIPMENT RENTAL & LEASES	\$16,702,262.45
FUEL & UTILITIES	\$41,326,343.52
HOUSEKEEP & JANITOR SERVICES	\$11,365,472.66
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	\$101,087,279.93
MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT	\$19,156,561.30
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$1,406,987.77
OTHER EQUIPMENT	\$14,693,507.10
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	\$8,505,563.98
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$394,974,186.01
PROGRAM DISTRIBUTIONS	\$9,410,417,369.07
PROPERTY & IMPROVEMENTS	\$793,285,545.24
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SERVICES	\$32,731,592.27
SUPPLIES	\$197,274,843.64
TRAVEL	\$23,559,941.90

State of Missouri | Office of Administration | Division of Accounting | Division of Purchasing and Material Management
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Alaska opens checkbook to public

By Pat Forgey | JUNEAU EMPIRE

Alaskans who want to make sure their state government is spending their money wisely can now rummage through the state's checkbook, and see what they can find.

The new Online Checkbook feature in the state's Web site lets the public look through listings of all the bills paid and grants awarded by the state government in the last six months.

"It's a very, very good tool for Alaskans to see where their money is going," said Gov. Sarah Palin at a press conference Monday.

It's a new government program that both ends of the political spectrum agree is needed. National anti-tax advocate Grover Norquist of Americans for Tax Reform and liberal Ralph Nader both support the plans to improve transparency in state government. Norquist testified before a legislative committee supporting the effort, as did Steve Cleary of the Alaska Public Interest Research Group.

Visitors to the Online Checkbook site can look up all the checks and payments made by the state so far this fiscal year, with some notable exceptions. Public employee salary information, while legally public, is not on the site. Nor are payments of less than \$1,000.

Sen. Bill Wielechowski, D-Anchorage, praised the effort Monday.

"I think there are going to be times when elected officials would rather not have this online, but it holds us accountable," he said.

Among those interested in the Online Checkbook are likely to be businesses, which may want to see how much the state is paying their competitors, he said. Those businesses may even underbid their competitors the next time around, and save the state some money.

Wielechowski said other states that have made similar efforts have gotten millions of hits on their Web sites. He brought the idea for a bill requiring the Online Checkbook to the Palin administration and got a positive response.

"They came back to us and said, 'You don't need the bill. We'll just go ahead and do it ourselves,'" he said.

Wielechowski said he's still planning to go ahead with his bill, however, and said elected officials should make the call - and take the heat - about what should and should not go online.

Requiring the state to post the information online ensures that it will remain there, even when administrations change, he said.

"If the Legislature has a say, it gives it permanence," he said. "Look at how many things Palin has reversed that (former Gov. Frank) Murkowski did."

Wielechowski said Department of Administration staff who put the information online exceeded expectations, but said the early version needs more work.

"It's a good start, but it's a little rough," he said. He said he'd like to see aggregated data and more specificity. In some cases, it is difficult to tell what a bill is for.

"We'll continue to refine the tool and respond to suggestions for improvement," said Annette Kreitzer, commissioner of the Department of Administration.

Information from the site can be downloaded in both spreadsheet and PDF formats, with additional lookup and analysis options under consideration, state officials say.

- Contact reporter Pat Forgey at 586-4816 or patrick.forgey@juneauempire.com.

A peek at the state's pocketbook

by Bill McAllister

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008

JUNEAU, Alaska -- Surfing the Internet now can include a review of the way the state of Alaska spends your money.

The Palin administration has established a state checkbook online. While it may not pose any threat to YouTube, one supporter says similar sites in other states have generated millions of hits.

In any case, Alaskans can look inside state finances with just a few keystrokes.

"It certainly is providing a new connection now between the state's financial information and the people," said Gov. Sarah Palin.

The online checkbook was officially launched last week as part of the administration's stated mission to make state government more transparent.

The site, with Excel spreadsheets and PDF files, can be searched by government agency, by vendor and by account, with purposes for the financial transactions listed.

Gregg Erickson, former publisher of the independent newsletter the Alaska Budget Report, applauds the governor.

"It's definitely a good sign. I think every governor learns that if they don't already know it that it's a lot easier to govern if you can control the flow of information," Erickson said. "If Sarah Palin didn't know that when she was elected, I'm sure she's figured that out by now. But that doesn't mean she still doesn't care about the idea of trying to make public information accessible."

House Finance Co-Chairman Mike Chenault tried out the website and says for him it might raise as many questions about state spending as it answers. He wonders if it will really give Alaskans confidence in the system.

"Is it too much information, or not enough information? I don't know. We'll have to look at it and see," said Chenault, R-Nikiski.

Sen. Bill Wielechowski, who has been working with the administration on the idea, has a bill to make it permanent.

"I think it's important that we enshrine this in law so that future governors have to do that as well. and Also I think it's important that we go ahead and have a public debate about what kind of things should be included in there, what kind of things perhaps shouldn't be included in there," said Wielechowski, D-Anchorage. "This bill gives the Legislature an opportunity to really have a say in what kind of things are in there and the public in general, since we will have public debate on it."

Still, even fans of the site have their criticisms. Wielechowski says the website should have the dates of transactions. And Erickson objects to the listing only of transactions of more than \$1,000.

The governor says she's fine with that.

"We're always in a position of being told what we can do better, so that's OK," she said.

While the site is up and running, the administration hasn't logged off of discussions about how to improve it.

Contact Bill McAllister at bmcallister@ktuu.com



AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist
President

January 30, 2008

Dear Committee Member,

I write to urge you to lend your support to SB 201, the Open Government Act sponsored by Sen. Bill Wielechowski.

The Open Government Act would create a single, searchable Internet website providing comprehensive information on state government finance - both revenues and expenditures greater than \$10,000, including, but not limited to grants and contracts. This measure would provide an important step towards greater fiscal accountability.

Since the passage of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 which resulted in the creation of www.USASpending.gov, Americans for Tax Reform has been working with policymakers and activists around the country to pass legislation and get executive orders signed that emulate and ideally go beyond the federal legislation.

In 2007, five states (Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and to a more limited extent Minnesota and Hawaii) passed legislation that mandates the creation of comprehensive websites for state expenditures. In most cases, these bills enjoyed broad bipartisan support. Several other states including Texas, Missouri, South Carolina, and just this month, Louisiana have already taken executive action or are looking to do so.

Several of the websites mandated by legislative or executive action have already gone live, and provide taxpayers with an opportunity to track their tax dollars at a mouse click. Among these are Texas, Oklahoma, and Missouri, and all these sites have been very well received so far.

This spending transparency effort is consistent with the Founding Fathers' notion of accountable government. It was Thomas Jefferson, who once said, "We might hope to see the finances of the Union as clear and intelligible as a merchant's book, so that every member of Congress and every man of any mind in the Union should be able to comprehend them, to investigate abuses, and consequently to control them."

Creating such a website would provide Alaska taxpayers with a tool to access, search and easily find relevant spending information, and ultimately foster a better understanding of the ways in which government operates. Ultimately, it would help reduce fraud, waste and abuse. Opacity in the way government spends tax dollars often leaves taxpayers frustrated, and can create the perception of possible abuse of the system.

More public scrutiny will help eliminate impropriety in dealing with taxpayer dollars - be it perceived or real impropriety.

Because it goes back to one of the most fundamental principles - accountability - this movement has broad bipartisan support. This is not a Right-Left issue, it is a Right-Wrong issue. There may not be agreement on how the money should be spent, but there is agreement that taxpayers should be able to scrutinize government expenditures. In today's digital age, there is no justification for keeping taxpayers in the dark as to how their tax dollars are being spent.

1020 I Street NW

Suite 200

Washington, DC

20030

T (202) 85-0266

F (202) 85-0261

www.atr.org

The founding fathers had the vision, and today, we have the tools ... our disposal to make that vision a reality - at little cost to taxpayers:

- *The Missouri Accountability Portal, an expenditure website created via executive order by Gov. Matt Blunt, was created without the appropriation of a single additional tax dollar*
- *The Oklahoma website, which just went live on December 28, 2007 and can be accessed at www.openbooks.ok.gov, initially carried a price tag of \$300,000. In the end the implementing agency reported that the website cost only \$8,000 plus expended staff time.*
- *Even the federal grant and contract website which was unveiled in December and is accessible at www.USASpending.gov was put together at a price tag of less than \$1 million - and that covers grants and contracts of the entire federal government. The software that was used to create the federal site will soon be available as open source software.*
- *Companies like Google and Microsoft have offered to partner with states in their endeavours to make government spending information more accessible, helping to further defray cost.*

One thing we suggest should be considered as this bill moves forward, is to drop the \$10,000 threshold for disclosure, and to include of the actual expenditure document - the grant, contract, or purchase order for example. This would help taxpayers to get an even clearer picture of how their tax dollars are spent.

With this bill, Alaska has the opportunity to empower its taxpayers, and that is an opportunity that should not be missed.

Americans for Tax Reform urges your support for SB 201 and is looking forward to working with you to advancing accountability and transparency for the sake of Alaska taxpayers.

Onward,



Grover Norquist



Official Business

Alaska State Senate

Senate Finance Committee

Mail Stop 3100
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

AGENDA

Thursday, February 21, 2008

9:00 AM

SB 201 – PUBLIC FINANCE WEBSITE

SB 122 – MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

SB 204 – MUNI TAX EXEMPTION: COMBAT DEATHS

HB 67 – MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

Benefits of the Alaska Open Government Act

*Thomas Jefferson's thoughts on
government transparency (from
1802):*

"We might hope to see the finances of the Union as clear and intelligible as a merchant's books, so that every member of Congress and every man of any mind in the Union should be able to comprehend them, to investigate abuses, and consequently to control them."

25-LS1135\O
Bailey
3/14/08

**CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 201(FIN)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): SENATORS WIELECHOWSKI, Ellis

RECEIVED

MAR 13 2008

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the establishment and maintenance of an Internet website providing**
2 **public finance information; and identifying the information to be available on the**
3 **Internet website."**

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 *** Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
6 to read:

7 **SHORT TITLE.** This Act may be known as the Alaska Open Government Act.

8 *** Sec. 2.** AS 37.05 is amended by adding a new section to article 2 to read:

9 **Sec. 37.05.215. Public finance Internet website.** (a) The Department of
10 Administration shall develop, operate, and maintain a searchable Internet website that
11 is accessible to the public at no cost and that provides financial information available
12 from the central accounting system describing

13 (1) state revenue for the preceding month, including

14 (A) a receipt or deposit by a state agency into a fund or account

1 established within the state treasury;

2 (B) proceeds from taxes received, including a compulsory
3 contribution imposed by the state for the purpose of financing services;

4 (C) agency earnings, including amounts collected for sales or
5 services, licenses or permits issued, or otherwise received by an agency under
6 the agency's regulations;

7 (D) revenue received for the use of state money or property,
8 including interest and lease payments;

9 (E) gifts, donations, and federal receipts; and

10 (F) other revenue;

11 (2) expenditures for the preceding month, including

12 (A) the name and location of any person to whom payment was
13 made;

14 (B) the amount of the expenditure disbursed;

15 (C) the type of transaction, by account code, including the
16 purpose of the expenditure;

17 (D) other information specified by the department;

18 (3) state revenue and expenditures, summarized for the preceding
19 fiscal year, as follows:

20 (A) general fund revenue sources;

21 (B) general fund expenditures categorized by function;

22 (C) general fund expenditures categorized by department;

23 (D) general fund expenditures categorized by account; and

24 (E) total general fund revenue versus expenditures;

25 (4) total assets versus liabilities at the end of the fiscal year;

26 (5) the fiscal year-end balance for each state fund; and

27 (6) for the preceding 10 years, by fiscal year, as follows:

28 (A) the number of full-time employees employed by the state;

29 (B) the total long-term debt owed by the state;

30 (C) total expenditures; and

31 (D) total payroll.

1 (b) The Department of Administration shall update the information described
2 in (a)(1) and (2) of this section on the Internet website on a monthly basis and the
3 information described in (a)(3) - (6) of this section on an annual basis.

4 (c) The Department of Revenue and other state agencies shall provide
5 information to the Department of Administration that is necessary to comply with the
6 requirements of this section.

7 (d) Nothing in this section requires disclosure of information that is
8 confidential under state or federal law. However, the Department of Administration
9 shall provide aggregated or summarized information describing confidential revenue
10 and expenditures if the aggregated or summarized information continues to protect
11 confidentiality.

12 (e) In this section,

13 (1) "expenditure" means a payment from the state treasury that is
14 greater than \$1,000 and that is made as a grant, subgrant, contract, subcontract, loan,
15 lease, cooperative agreement, purchase order, task order, delivery order, or other form
16 of financial transaction; however, "expenditure" does not include the transfer of
17 money between state agencies, individual payments to state employees or retirees, or
18 payment of state or federal assistance to an individual;

19 (2) "searchable Internet website" means an Internet website that allows
20 searching, extracting, compiling, and aggregating information from the data available
21 on the website.

22 * Sec. 3. The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
23 read:

24 DELAYED AVAILABILITY. The Internet website established under AS 37.05.215,
25 added by sec. 2 of this Act, shall be available to the public on or before October 1, 2009.

26 * Sec. 4. The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
27 read:

28 TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS. The initial Internet website established under
29 AS 37.05.215, added by sec. 2 of this Act, must, notwithstanding the requirements of
30 AS 37.05.215(a), list information from the previous fiscal year. Beginning on October 1,
31 2010, the list shall be updated on a monthly or annual basis as specified.

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 2/13/08

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: _____

Finance Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 201

SB 201 PUBLIC FINANCE WEBSITE

"An Act relating to the establishment and maintenance of an Internet website providing public finance information; and identifying the information to be available on the Internet website."

and recommends:

- be replaced with SCS or CS 201 (FIN)
- adopt previous SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

SENATE BILL:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title
<hr/>	
HOUSE BILL:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical Title Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title w/ SCR # _____

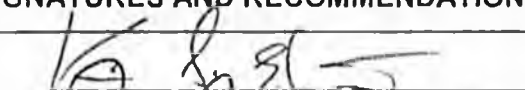
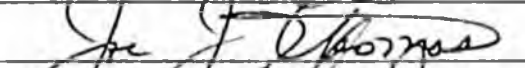
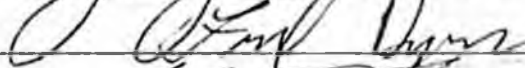


NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
ADM	1/28/08			✓	1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	Elin	✓			
	Thomas	✓			
	Dyson	✓			
	Hughes	✓			
CO-CHAIR:					
CO-CHAIR: 	Stearns	✓			

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: CSSB 201(STA)
(S) Publish Date: 2/13/08

Identifier (file name): SB201-DOA-DOF-1-28-08 Dept. Affected: Administration
Title: "An act relating to establishment and maintenance of an RDU: Centralized Admin Services
Internet website providing public finance information..." Component: Finance
Sponsor: Senators Wielechowski and Ellis
Requester: _____ Component Number: 59

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES								
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()								
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

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

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The Division of Finance is currently building such a website at the direction of Governor Palin. The source of the financial information will be the State's new Alaska Data Enterprise Reporting System (ALDER), which is currently in field testing by State departments.

This project has been incorporated into the Division of Finance ongoing workload. Therefore, no additional funding needs are anticipated.

Prepared by: Kim Garner, Director
Division: Finance
Approved by: Kevin Brooks, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Administration

Phone: 465-3435
Date/Time: 1/28/08 10:00 AM
Date: 1/28/2008

*Adopted
3/21/08*

25-LS1135N
Bailey
3/20/08

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 201()

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS WIELECHOWSKI, Ellis

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the establishment and maintenance of an Internet website providing
2 public finance information; and identifying the information to be available on the
3 Internet website."

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

5 * Section 1. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
6 to read:

7 SHORT TITLE. This Act may be known as the Alaska Open Government Act.

8 * Sec. 2. AS 37.05.210(a) is amended to read:

9 (a) The Department of Administration shall

10 (1) file with the governor and with the legislative auditor before
11 December 16 a report of the financial transactions of the preceding fiscal year and of
12 the financial condition of the state as of the end of that year, prepared in accordance
13 with generally accepted accounting principles and audited by the legislative auditor in
14 accordance with generally accepted audit standards, with comments and

1 supplementary data that the Department of Administration considers necessary; this
2 report shall be printed for the information of the legislature and the public and shall
3 be available electronically for use in the public finance Internet website under
4 AS 37.05.215;

5 (2) compile statistics necessary for the budget and other statistics
6 required by the governor;

7 (3) file a travel and compensation report with the legislature by
8 January 31 of each year containing detailed information for the previous calendar year
9 of the salaries, per diem, travel expenses, relocation expenses, and any additional
10 allowances for

11 (A) the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the chiefs of
12 staff of the governor and lieutenant governor;

13 (B) the president and vice-president of the University of Alaska
14 and the chancellors of the individual campuses of the university;

15 (C) the commissioners or other executive heads of the principal
16 departments in the executive branch of state government, and the deputy
17 commissioners and division directors in those departments; and

18 (D) the executive heads of public corporations created by law,
19 including the Alaska Railroad Corporation.

20 * **Sec. 3.** AS 37.05 is amended by adding a new section to article 2 to read:

21 **Sec. 37.05.215. Public finance Internet website.** (a) The Department of
22 Administration shall develop, operate, and maintain a searchable Internet website that
23 is accessible to the public at no cost and that provides financial information available
24 from the central accounting system or the annual financial report prepared and filed
25 under AS 37.05.210(a)(1) describing

26 (1) state revenue for the preceding month, including

27 (A) a receipt or deposit by a state agency into a fund or account
28 established within the state treasury;

29 (B) proceeds from taxes received, including a compulsory
30 contribution imposed by the state for the purpose of financing services;

31 (C) agency earnings, including amounts collected for sales or

1 services, licenses or permits issued, or otherwise received by an agency under
2 the agency's regulations;

3 (D) revenue received for the use of state money or property,
4 including interest and lease payments;

5 (E) gifts, donations, and federal receipts; and

6 (F) other revenue;

7 (2) expenditures for the preceding month, including

8 (A) the name and location of any person to whom payment was
9 made;

10 (B) the amount of the expenditure disbursed;

11 (C) the type of transaction, by account code, including the
12 purpose of the expenditure;

13 (D) other information specified by the department;

14 (3) state revenue and expenditures, summarized for the preceding
15 fiscal year, as follows:

16 (A) general fund revenue sources;

17 (B) general fund expenditures categorized by function;

18 (C) general fund expenditures categorized by department;

19 (D) general fund expenditures categorized by account; and

20 (E) total general fund revenue versus expenditures;

21 (4) total assets versus liabilities at the end of the fiscal year;

22 (5) the fiscal year-end balance for each state fund; and

23 (6) for the preceding 10 years, by fiscal year, the following:

24 (A) the number of full-time employees employed by the state;

25 (B) the total long-term debt owed by the state;

26 (C) total general fund expenditures; and

27 (D) total general fund payroll.

28 (b) The Department of Administration shall update the information described
29 in (a)(1) and (2) of this section on the Internet website on a monthly basis and the
30 information described in (a)(3) - (6) of this section on an annual basis.

31 (c) The Department of Revenue and other state agencies that use the central

1 accounting system shall provide information to the Department of Administration that
2 is necessary to comply with the requirements of this section.

3 (d) Nothing in this section requires disclosure of information that is
4 confidential under state or federal law. However, the Department of Administration
5 shall provide aggregated or summarized information describing confidential revenue
6 and expenditures if the aggregated or summarized information continues to protect
7 confidentiality.

8 (e) In this section,

9 (1) "expenditure" means a payment from the state treasury that is
10 greater than \$1,000 and that is made as a grant, subgrant, contract, subcontract, loan,
11 lease, cooperative agreement, purchase order, task order, delivery order, or other form
12 of financial transaction; however, "expenditure" does not include the transfer of
13 money between state agencies, individual payments to state employees or retirees, or
14 payment of state or federal assistance to an individual;

15 (2) "searchable Internet website" means an Internet website that allows
16 searching, extracting, compiling, and aggregating information from the data available
17 on the website.

18 * Sec. 4. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
19 read:

20 DELAYED AVAILABILITY. The Internet website established under AS 37.05.215,
21 added by sec. 3 of this Act, shall be available to the public on or before October 1, 2009.

22 * Sec. 5. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
23 read:

24 TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS. The initial Internet website established under
25 AS 37.05.215, added by sec. 3 of this Act, must, notwithstanding the requirements of
26 AS 37.05.215(a), list information from the previous fiscal year. Beginning on October 1,
27 2010, the list shall be updated monthly or annually, as specified.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: CSSB 201(STA)
(S) Publish Date: 2/13/08

Identifier (file name): SB201-DOA-DOF-1 '08-08 Dept. Affected: Administration
Title: "An act relating to establishment and maintenance of an RDU: Centralized Admin Services
Internet website providing public finance information..." Component: Finance
Sponsor: Senators Wielechowski and Ellis
Requester: _____ Component Number: 59

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES								
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()								
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

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

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The Division of Finance is currently building such a website at the direction of Governor Palin. The source of the financial information will be the State's new Alaska Data Enterprise Reporting System (ALDER), which is currently in field testing by State departments.

This project has been incorporated into the Division of Finance ongoing workload. Therefore, no additional funding needs are anticipated.

Prepared by: Kim Garner, Director
Division: Finance
Approved by: Kevin Brooks, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Administration

Phone: 465-3435
Date/Time: 1/28/08 10:00 AM
Date: 1/28/2008

SB

2022

HFIN

FILE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: SB 202
(S) Publish Date: 2/19/08

Identifier (file name): SB202-DOA-DMV-01-22-08 Dept. Affected: Administration
Title: "Expenditures to implement the federal Real ID Act..." RDU: Division of Motor Vehicles
Component: Motor Vehicles
Sponsor: Sen. Wielechowski
Requester: (S) STA Component Number: 2348

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0							
CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0.0							

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF								
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
1156 Receipt Supported Services								
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill does not have a financial impact on the Division of Motor Vehicles, therefore, the Division submits a zero fiscal note.

Prepared by: Whitney H. Brewster, Director Phone: 907-269-5574
Division: Motor Vehicles Date/Time: 1/22/08 12:00 PM
Approved by: Kevin Brooks, Deputy Commissioner Date: 1/22/2008
Department of Administration

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session
State Capitol, Rm. 115
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-2435
Fax: (907) 465 6615

Interim
716 W. 4th Ave, Ste. 540
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 269-0120
Fax: (907) 269-0122



Co-chair
Joint Armed Services Committee

Member
Resources Committee
Judiciary Committee
Transportation Committee

Senator_Bill_Wielechowski@legis.state.ak.us

SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI

Senate Bill 202

"An Act relating to expenditures in aid of or to implement the provisions of the federal Real ID Act."

Sponsor Statement

The "Real ID Act" is a federal mandate that creates America's first national ID Card. This is a cause for alarm for many Alaskans and Americans, particularly since the federal government is attempting to interfere with the states' sovereignty, and force the states to implement the program through state-issued driver's licenses. Senate Bill 202 prohibits the use of state money to implement this program.

Many people are concerned that the "common machine-readable technology" required by the Real ID Act would convert state-issued drivers licenses and identification cards into tracking devices, allowing computers to note and record people's whereabouts each time they are identified. The Federal government could essentially track citizens' every movement. This is a major step towards creating a surveillance society.

The requirement that states maintain databases of information about their citizens and residents and then share this personal information with all other states will expose every state to the information security weaknesses of every other state and threatens the privacy of every American. States and local governments that contract with private corporations also allow those private organizations to obtain this information. Moreover, through national agreements with Canada and Mexico, those governments will also have access to every Americans' identification information. Essentially, every American's identity will be at risk of substantial threat of ID theft under Real ID.

The concern has also been raised that Real ID will be used as a backdoor attempt to institute a national gun registry. That is why many NRA members oppose Real ID.

The implementation of Real ID is one of the top issues that States all across the country have been addressing. Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Washington have all passed legislation opposing Real ID. Similar bills are pending in Arizona, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, D.C., West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

It is time for Alaska to join the effort to stand up for state sovereignty and oppose Real ID. I encourage you to support this legislation.

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By: Charlie Rex
Luke Hopkins
Hank Bartos
Tim Beck
Randy Frank
Mike Musick
Victoria "Torie" Foote
Valerie Therrien
Introduced: 04/12/07
Amended: 04/12/07
Adopted: 04/12/07

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH
RESOLUTION NO. 2007 - 11

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE REAL ID ACT OF 2005

WHEREAS, the citizens of Alaska recognize the Constitution of the United States as our charter of liberty and the Bill of Rights enshrines the fundamental and inalienable rights of Americans, including the freedoms of privacy and from unreasonable searches; and

WHEREAS, each of Alaska's duly elected public servants has sworn to defend and uphold the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska, under the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution has always exercised its exclusive power to establish standards and regulations for the issuance of Alaskan state drivers' licenses and Alaskan state identification cards; and

WHEREAS, the REAL ID Act of 2005, by dictating how a state issues a driver's license or identification card, and the states maintain and share their driver's licenses or identification card data, creates a national identification card; and

WHEREAS, the consolidation by the REAL ID Act of so much personal information onto the card itself, into public databases, and will facilitate the crime of identity theft, the invasion of privacy, cyber crime, and the undesired sale of personal information; and

WHEREAS, the REAL ID Act requires in all cases the drivers licenses to contain actual home addresses and makes no provision for securing personal information for individuals in potential danger such as undercover police officers and victims of stalking or criminal harassment or persons whose identities must remain undisclosed as a matter of security to sustain operation or protection on a personal, local, state, or national level; and

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WHEREAS, the REAL ID Act was passed without hearings, testimony, or public discussion as part of a last minute addition to the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror and Tsunami Relief, 2005.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Assembly of the Fairbanks North Star Borough supports the government of the United States in its campaign against terrorism and encourages the federal government not wage this war on terrorism at the expense of states' rights and essential civil rights and liberties of citizens protected in the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights.

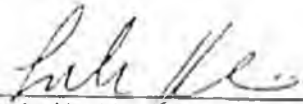
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assembly opposes the REAL ID Act because it violates the rights and liberties of Alaskans guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and the Alaska State Constitution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Assembly encourages Congress to repeal the REAL ID Act of 2005.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assembly encourages the Alaska State Legislature to adopt a similar resolution opposing the REAL ID Act of 2005.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States, the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Honorable Ted Stevens, the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, United States Congress, the Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor, State of Alaska and the Alaska State Legislature.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 12th DAY OF APRIL 2007.



Luke Hopkins
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:


Mona Lisa Drexler, CMC
Municipal Borough Clerk

78
79 Ayes: Bartos, Beck, Frank, Foote, Musick, Tarrion, Rex, Hopkins
80 Noes: None
81 Excused: Winters

By: Council Member Hilling
Introduced: February 26, 2008⁷

RESOLUTION NO. 4262

**RESOLUTION PETITIONING THE ALASKA STATE
LEGISLATURE TO PROCLAIM OPPOSITION TO, AND
PASS LEGISLATION AGAINST, THE FEDERAL "REAL
ID" ACT OF 2005**

WHEREAS, a national ID system has been proposed by the federal government pursuant to Public Law 109-13, called the "Real ID" Act of 2005; and

WHEREAS, this system by 2008 will oblige the 50 states to unify all drivers licenses under certain requirements of content, formatting, recording and reporting; and

WHEREAS, at federal and state levels, costs are projected in the several billions of dollars in the near term; and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights states in the Tenth Amendment, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people" and in the Fourth Amendment, "The right of the people to be secure [from federal encroachment] ... shall not be violated"; and

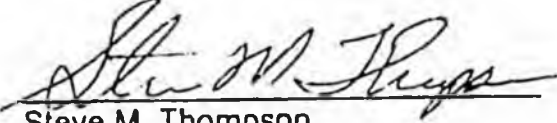
WHEREAS, such issues of states' rights, citizens' privacy, and limitation of federal power have prompted about a dozen states to have active legislation against "Real ID," while another dozen or so states are in process of either resolutions or legislation against its implementation; and

WHEREAS, in the U.S. Congress Sen. John Sununu of New Hampshire, along with Sen. Daniel Akaka of Hawaii, filed a bill last year to repeal the "Real ID" Act of 2005; and

WHEREAS, it behooves the City of Fairbanks and the Alaska State Legislature to participate in this groundswell of objection and opposition to incursion in our affairs by the federal government;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS hereby places itself in solidarity with the above-mentioned states seeking abrogation of the "Real ID" Act of 2005, and petitions the Alaska State Legislature likewise to pass resolutions and/or laws to the end of protecting our state from such unconstitutional federal interference and incursion.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 26TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2007.



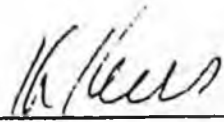
Steve M. Thompson
City of Fairbanks

ATTEST:

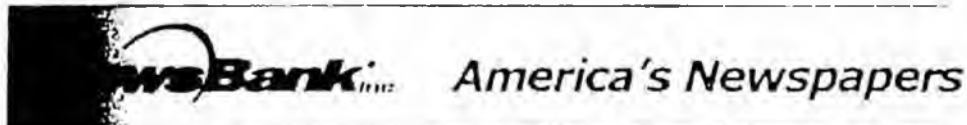


Janey Hovenden
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Herbert P. Kuss
City Attorney



Opinion

Anchorage Daily News (AK) - January 18, 2008

Author: Staff

The answer is still no REAL ID remains a bad idea

Orwellian talk to the contrary, the REAL ID Act does give the United States its first national identification card. And it will create a national database of information about more than 240 million Americans.

Last week, Michael Chertoff, secretary of Homeland Security, unveiled revised rules for the REAL ID Act, which bombed beyond the Beltway after its passage in 2005. Seventeen states passed resolutions protesting it or prohibiting compliance. So Homeland Security tried to sweeten the deal by granting delays, slashing costs by a claimed 73 percent and exempting Americans 50 and older from carrying federally approved driver's licenses until 2017.

Red flag, citizens. If you can't peddle an idea without a fire sale and years of delay, it's probably not a good idea.

REAL ID requires the states to issue driver's licenses that comply with more rigorous federal rules for checking personal data and that have three layers of technical security to make counterfeiting harder. The law also requires each state database to connect with other state databases and federal databases so that information can be shared and checked.

By 2014, states would have to issue REAL ID licenses to all drivers born after Dec. 1, 1964. States could choose from a menu of high-tech safeguards to include in the card.

Last week's sweeteners came with a warning. Mr. Chertoff said the time for discussion and debate is over. States now must seek waivers for more time to comply with the act, or their licenses won't be valid ID for boarding airplanes or entering federal buildings.

And yet he claims the states aren't being coerced.

There remain two fundamental problems with REAL ID.

* Americans have long and wisely rejected any sort of national identification card, particularly one that could be used to restrict our free passage among the states or collect information about us. REAL ID -- or any American's lack of REAL ID -- would do both.

Americans for generations have conceded the need for a reasonably functioning government to have certain information about us. Social Security requires it. Federal loans require it. So do military service and the census. Justice and security sometimes require it. We bear, sometimes with clenched teeth, the intrusion of baggage and body searches to board airplanes.

But Americans also have maintained that the ordinary commerce, relationships and comings and goings of law-abiding citizens are none of Uncle Sam's business.

With REAL ID, such could become an increasingly routine part of Uncle Sam's business.



* Critics point out that REAL ID would not make us safer. It would not have stopped Timothy McVeigh, a homegrown terrorist, nor would it guarantee the apprehension of foreign-born terrorists like those who carried out the attacks of 9/11. It might provide a limited tool against illegal immigration, and, Mr. Chertoff argues, identity theft. But tech trackers insist shared databases would increase opportunities for ID theft and other information hacking -- not to mention government-sanctioned invasions of privacy.

Paranoia? No, just knowledge of current events, given the Bush administration's determination to tap Americans' communications with no court oversight and no accountability.

If the states want to tighten their rules for driver's licenses and ID verification, fine. Some of the checks required by REAL ID are being done now -- Alaska, for example, double-checks given Social Security numbers.

And few Americans would have any problem with states sharing information with one another and the feds -- given just cause for doing so.

We want law enforcement on any level to have the means to protect us and catch the bad guys before they strike. That calls for precision, not a universal net that restricts our freedoms and threatens our privacy.

REAL ID doesn't need tweaking or more time. It needs repeal.

BOTTOM LINE: Homeland Security gives ground on cost and time, but REAL ID is a bad deal at any price, at any time.

Alaska notebook

Winter biker

Meet Nick Hardigg, winter bicycle commuter.

Age: "Still in his 30s" (but not for long).

Married, no kids. His wife is also a bike commuter.

Lives in: Turnagain.

Works in: Downtown.

Route: Coastal Trail to Second Avenue, then uphill.


Bike: A Marin hybrid (not a mountain bike; not a street bike), with studded tires. "It's not heavy and it's fast. You don't need some fat balloon tire to get around."

Typical winter riding outfit: Multiple layers, rain pants, rain jacket, face mask, wool mittens.

This is his second winter in Anchorage commuting on bike. He's used to cold weather -- he did four years with the National Park Service in Denali.

Advantages: Doesn't need to belong to a health club -- commuting is his daily exercise. He and his wife get by with just one car. That saves thousands of dollars a year.

Disadvantages: When it snows so much during the day he can't pedal the bike. Riding to work through unpacked snow, he may get to the office sweating like a horse, and there is no shower there.



Moose encounters: "I see one every three weeks or so on the Coastal Trail. Generally they move out of way."

Near death experiences with Anchorage drivers: None so far. His bike has "nice, powerful blinkers" and he just added a strobe light to be seen more easily.

Take away message: "I can't believe how easy it is. It's relaxing. I hate traffic. It's just fun."

-- Matt Zencey

Caption: Photo 1: Alaska Notebook_011808.jpg



Edition: Final

Section: Nation World

Page: B4

Record Number: 1603665901/18/08

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America's Newspapers

Local In brief

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner (AK) - February 28, 2007

Author: Staff Report

Opposition registered to Real ID The Fairbanks City Council has registered concern with the government's progress in creating a national identification card system, and state lawmakers could soon consider a similar resolution.

The council approved a resolution aligning itself with states where legislatures have opposed, or are considering opposing, the upcoming requirement that drivers licenses and other identification documents comply with strict rules crafted by the federal government. The upcoming changes were laid out in the 2005 Real ID Act.

The council voted 5-0 to oppose the ID card requirements, set to take effect next spring. The resolution argues issues of state rights and citizen privacy have prompted states to oppose the upcoming changes.

Interior state lawmakers are considering introducing a similar resolution to the Legislature for consideration.

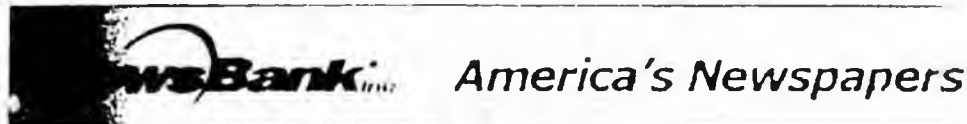
"There are not a lot that states can generally do aside from logging an opinion," said Rep. Scott Kawasaki, D-Fairbanks. Nonetheless, Kawasaki is working with Rep. John Coghill, R-North Pole, on a resolution similar to the City Council's. Kawasaki said a handful of lawmakers seem to feel the identification card changes would represent federal government overstepping its bounds.

Section: News

Record Number: /fdn/raw/2007-02-28/2007/02/28/5565.html

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'Big Brother' is almost here

Juneau Empire (AK) - July 13, 2007

In his eerily farsighted book "1984," George Orwell describes a society in which privacy is unknown, slavish obedience a given, and nonconformity the ultimate enemy of the state.

In a nation crawling with domestic spies, the image of Big Brother is seemingly omnipresent. His gaze of loving authority encourages a compliant populace to maintain its herd mentality. Interestingly, while his face is everywhere, in reality, Big Brother is faceless. No one ever actually sees him. They merely assume he is in charge, that he cares for them like a familial overseer, and that his version of society is the only correct one.

It's taken us a while, but we're beginning to catch up with Orwell's vision. The Bush administration's virtually unrestricted government surveillance of Americans has expanded dramatically in the past few years. And while we still lack Winston Smith's ultra-cool spying television set in our living rooms, by this time next year we're slated to have something almost as nifty. It's called REAL ID, and when it kicks in, well, (Big) brother, we'll have all the personal security we could want. Really.

On May 11, 2005, President George W. Bush signed the REAL ID Act of 2005, as an attachment to a military spending bill. In essence, the law, which goes into effect in May of 2008 (or a year later with certain caveats), will create a federalized driver's license, with standards to be set by the Department of Homeland Security.

Well, of course it's for our own good. We'd never be able to survive as a nation without it. We haven't so far. And only kooks, right-wing conspiracy theorists and the blatantly unpatriotic would balk at:

1. Providing an incredible amount of often difficult-to-obtain documentation proving they are who they say they are.
2. Either directly paying exorbitant fees for the new identification card or paying for it through ballooning taxation.
3. Submitting to the future possibility of biometric identifiers and radio-frequency identification within the card itself.
4. Being deposited in a massive database.
5. Being forbidden to travel freely in their own country by their method of choice.
6. Surrendering a whole lot more of their privacy and individuality.

But there is rebellion in the wind.

Montana, which as a state has always had the stomach for a good scrap, flatly refuses to implement the federal plan, stating that it is "inimical to the security and well-being of the people of Montana." New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch signed into law that state's official rejection of REAL ID, indicating that the unfunded federal mandate was "repugnant" to both the state and U.S. constitutions. Other states have expressed similar legislative opposition to what is rightly perceived as an egregious intrusion into the privacy of individuals, and a dismembering of states' rights. The National Governor's Association has



also expressed opposition to the federal law.

While compliance with REAL ID is "voluntary," it is also "mandatory," since noncompliance will result in your being barred from flying on a commercial airplane, entering federal buildings, opening a bank account, and engaging in a variety of other daily activities currently taken for granted. What REAL ID amounts to is the creation of a de facto national identification card and internal passport. For Alaskans, whose dependence on commercial air transport is a fact of life, refusal to "voluntarily" participate in this program means a virtual cessation of travel to the Outside.

Supporters of REAL ID claim it will help weed out illegal aliens, but our government's arrogant refusal to seal our southern borders exposes that defense as nothing more than smoke and mirrors. This program is geared toward American citizens, not illegal aliens.

Alaska is embarrassingly slow in opposing REAL ID. Though not currently requiring implementation of the law, our state legislature's milquetoast stance is a far cry from vigorous and outright rejection. For a place that supposedly prizes personal freedom and independence, this reluctance to take a stand is pitiful.

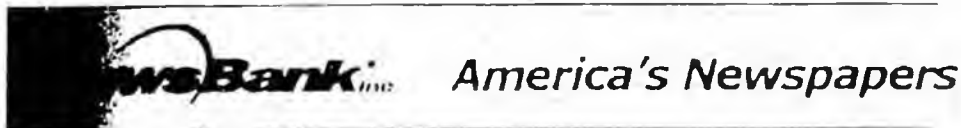
The only two options at this point are equally dramatic: boot REAL ID into the legislative oblivion it so richly deserves, or roll out the welcome mat for one fearmongering British writer. His ideas have been looking for a home for a long time.

- Kevin Reeves is a freelance writer living in Haines.

Section: Opinion

Record Number: 11A60BEE06BA4A40

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Opinion

Anchorage Daily News (AK) - August 31, 2007

Author: Staff

REAL ID Alaska should join list of states telling Uncle Sam no thanks

It's hard to believe Alaskans will stand for it.

By the end of 2009, the federal government says Alaska and every other state must produce drivers licenses that effectively function as a national ID card. To issue a license, states must demand to see a birth certificate and proof of residence, verify those documents, make sure the license can easily be read by federal scanners, and link all the license information to a national database. If Alaska dares reject this intrusive, burdensome federal mandate, the feds will refuse to accept Alaska's ID for "federal purposes" and Alaskans will need a passport to board any domestic flight or visit any federal building or national park.

What would we gain if we cave in to this unprecedented federal pressure?

- * More bureaucracy. States would have to vet and maintain huge volumes of personal information, and would have to do most of it on their own dimes. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff has made it clear that the states will pick up most of the tab -- \$23 billion nationwide over 10 years, by Homeland Security's own estimate.

- * Less security. Mr. Chertoff complains 8,000 separate ID cards for various purposes in the United States make it hard to recognize forgeries and protect our borders from illegal immigrants or terrorists. But the Electronic Privacy Information Center, for example, argues that a single card is like having one key to many doors. In the wrong hands, that key can shatter security and privacy on a vast scale. Security experts also warn that terrorists and other criminals will find ways to forge REAL ID cards, no matter how expensive and difficult, to steal identities of honest citizens.

- * Less freedom. A passport to fly to Seattle? To visit Denali? To walk into the Social Security office in downtown Anchorage? Ridiculous.

It is an absolute lie to say that a federally dictated driver's license is not a national ID.

It is absolutely a national ID. Homeland Security just refuses to call it that.

States are on their own to solve the implementation problems and cover the costs. If states balk, well, your citizens will be second-class, automatically suspect, because the feds reject any state ID that doesn't comply with federal rules.

There's no guarantee all this sound and fury will make us any more secure.

Seventeen state legislatures have taken a stand against the REAL ID Act. In 2006, Alaska Reps. Paul Seaton and Max Gruenberg led a successful effort to delay Alaska from complying. In 2007, a bipartisan group of state House members backed a resolution opposing the act. It languished in committee. So Alaska -- a state that was in the forefront of protests against the worst of the USA Patriot Act -- is still on the bubble about REAL ID.



Time to get oif. REAL ID won't make living in the United States safer, just more controlled and complicated for ordinary citizens. This isn't just an overreaction to 9/11 and the tide of illegal immigration. It's a dangerous reaction. Alaska should say no. Congress should repeal a bill that passed with no debate or public hearings, that was tuckered into a 2005 spending bill to cover the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and tsunami relief.

Duane Bannock, head of the state Division of Motor Vehicles, says he is neither for nor against REAL ID, but does point out that final regulations haven't been published yet, and that Homeland Security's revised regs may answer some objections. Maybe. But the devil isn't just in the details of REAL ID. It's in the idea.

We need reason to deal with the immigration issue and we need resolution to combat terrorism. A national ID born of fear defies both.

BOTTOM LINE: REAL ID is a real mistake. Alaska should protest and support repeal.

That's our Maggie

Maggie the elephant holds a peculiar place in Alaska's imagination. A peculiarly large place, in fact.

Are Alaskans leaving billions of dollars in oil company pockets? How many ex-Alaska legislators will go to jail for corruption? Will the Alaska gas line ever get built?

Who cares? The welfare of Alaska's lone elephant more than holds her own in the scramble for public attention.

She's our own Paris Hilton, our Brad and Jen, the tragic celebrity story that just gets weirder as it goes. (My GOD! Is that BOB BARKER?) Heck, as if to top off the picture of a celebrity in distress, Maggie even has a world-class cellulite problem. (If only she would hit that treadmill harder ...)

Will it cost too much to ship Maggie someplace warmer? Here comes Hollywood money to the rescue!

But wait, how are they going to ship her out -- by jumbo jet? Will she get a PETA-approved elephant airline safety seat? If she goes by ship, is it humane to send her across the Gulf of Alaska without Dramamine? Will poor Maggie feel deprived if she is no longer the center of so much national attention?

Well, she need not slink off into obscurity. The free ride awaiting her would end at an elephant sanctuary in California. Maybe Paris Hilton will trade in her ferret for an occasional outing with a once-famous elephant.

-- Peter Dunlap-Shohl and Matt Zencey

Caption: Photo 1: 31edit pg1_ID_083107.jpg

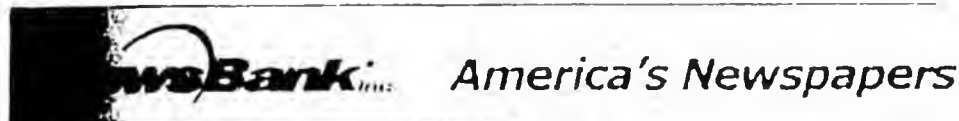
Edtion: Final

Section: Alaska

Page: B4

Record Number: 1473888008/31/07

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National ID card proposal a bad idea

Juneau Empire (AK) - September 10, 2007

It's hard to believe Alaskans will stand for it. By the end of 2009, the federal government says Alaska and every other state must produce drivers licenses that effectively function as a national ID card. To issue a license, states must demand to see a birth certificate and proof of residence, verify those documents, make sure the license can easily be read by federal scanners, and link all the license information to a national database. If Alaska dares reject this intrusive, burdensome federal mandate, the feds will refuse to accept Alaska's ID for "federal purposes" and Alaskans will need a passport to board any domestic flight or visit any federal building or national park.

What would we gain if we cave in to this unprecedented federal pressure?

- More bureaucracy. States would have to vet and maintain huge volumes of personal information, and would have to do most of it on their own dimes. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff has made it clear that the states will pick up most of the tab - \$23 billion nationwide over 10 years, by Homeland Security's own estimate.

- Less security. Mr. Chertoff complains 3,000 separate ID cards for various purposes in the United States make it hard to recognize forgeries and protect our borders from illegal immigrants or terrorists. But the Electronic Privacy Information Center, for example, argues that a single card is like having one key to many doors. In the wrong hands, that key can shatter security and privacy on a vast scale. Security experts also warn that terrorists and other criminals will find ways to forge REAL ID cards, no matter how expensive and difficult, to steal identities of honest citizens.

- Less freedom. A passport to fly to Seattle? To visit Denali? To walk into the Social Security office in downtown Anchorage? Ridiculous.

It is an absolute lie to say that a federally dictated driver's license is not a national ID.


It is absolutely a national ID. Homeland Security just refuses to call it that.

States are on their own to solve the implementation problems and cover the costs. If states balk, well, your citizens will be second-class, automatically suspect, because the feds reject any state ID that doesn't comply with federal rules.

There's no guarantee all this sound and fury will make us any more secure.

Seventeen state legislatures have taken a stand against the REAL ID Act. In 2006, Alaska Reps. Paul Seaton and Max Gruenberg led a successful effort to delay Alaska from complying. In 2007, a bipartisan group of state House members backed a resolution opposing the act. It languished in committee. So Alaska - a state that was in the forefront of protests against the worst of the USA Patriot Act - is still on the bubble about REAL ID.

Time to get off. REAL ID won't make living in the United States safer, just more controlled and complicated for ordinary citizens. This isn't just an overreaction to 9/11 and the tide of illegal immigration. It's a dangerous reaction. Alaska should say no. Congress should repeal a bill that passed with no debate or public hearings, that was tacked into a 2005 spending bill to cover the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and tsunami relief.



Duane Bannock, head of the state Division of Motor Vehicles, says he is neither for nor against REAL ID, but does point out that final regulations haven't been published yet, and that Homeland Security's revised regs may answer some objections. Maybe. But the devil isn't just in the details of REAL ID. It's in the idea.

We need reason to deal with the immigration issue and we need resolution to combat terrorism. A national ID born of fear defies both.

Section: Opinion

Record Number: 11B97EB172F0C580

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Illegal ID 11/2/07

Real ID is a real problem

IF YOU WONDER whether this nation has gone nuts, consider this: New York, under the federally mandated and widely hated Real ID program, may issue three different kinds of driver's licenses, two for New Yorkers who actually belong in New York — and a third for illegal aliens.

Imagine if you will that someone could present themselves to an official of the state of New York, announce that he or she is an illegal alien and demand a driver's license without repercussions. That he or she would not be snatched up and put on a bus or a plane home is mind-boggling.

REAL ID, passed by Congress in 2005, has its share of critics among civil libertarians who say they worry about the security of information gathered under the program. Proponents say it will make obtaining fake driver's licenses more challenging and increase the safety of the traveling public.

But some 17 states have passed . . .

(cont'd from front page) legislation defying the federal REAL ID mandate that is scheduled to be phased in by 2013. The program requires 245 million drivers to renew their licenses in person and provide various documents to prove their citizenship or legal residency.

The program's costs are staggering. The New York Times reports: "The Department of Homeland Security puts the price of the program nationally at \$23 billion over 10 years, while the National Governors Association estimates that the cost to states will exceed \$11 billion in the first five years alone."

Congress, the Times reports, came up with just \$40 million for start-up costs last year, the rest of the burden was dumped on the states.

In Alaska, officials have made no decision on Real ID pending final release of federal regulations. When they do, we can only hope it is not as nutty as New York's.

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SB

204

SFIN

FILE

Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR
GENE THERRIAULT

Mailing Address:
1292 Sadler Way, Suite 308
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 488-0857
Fax: (907) 488-4271



Senate

While in session
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska
99801-1102
(907) 465-4797
Fax: (907) 465-3884
SENATE DISTRICT F

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 204

"An Act relating to an optional exemption from municipal property taxes for residences of widows and widowers of certain members of the armed forces of the United States; and providing for an effective date."

Alaska Statute 29.45.050 (i)(2) provides authority for a municipality to:

"...exempt from taxation the assessed value that exceeds \$150,000 of real property owned and occupied as a permanent place of abode by a resident who is a disabled veteran, including a person who was disabled in the line of duty while serving in the Alaska Territorial Guard."

Senate Bill 204 extends a similar token of gratitude by granting municipalities the option of providing a partial or whole property tax exemption to a widow or widower of a member of the United States' Armed Forces killed in the line of duty. To qualify for the property tax exemption, the deceased must have qualified for hostile fire or imminent danger pay and died within 90 days of having sustained combat related injuries. Furthermore, the exemption applies only to widows and widowers who choose to make Alaska their home; their real property must be owned in Alaska and serve as their permanent place of abode.

In deference to Alaska's economic and demographic diversity, SB 204 refrains from dictating the provisions of the property tax exemption by granting authority to each municipality to implement provisions such as tax exemption rate, qualification retroactivity, and exemption duration.

AMENDMENT

Stedman

OFFERED IN THE SENATE

TO: SB 204

- 1 Page 1, line 11, following "treatment.":
- 2 Insert "This subsection does not permit an exemption if the member of the armed
- 3 forces of the United States dies as a result of an intentional self-inflicted injury."

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: SB 204
(S) Publish Date: 2/13/08

Identifier (file name): SB204-CED-CRA-01-31-08 Dept. Affected: DCCED
Title: Muni Tax Exemptions: Combat Death RDU: Comm Asst & Ec Dev (405)
Component: Community & Regional Affairs
Sponsor: Therriault
Requester: Senate Community & Regional Affairs Component Number: 2879

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES								
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()								
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

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

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation would allow municipalities to partially or wholly by ordinance exempt from taxation real property owned and occupied by a resident who is the widow or widower of certain members of the armed forces of the United States. The residence must be a permanent place of abode.

This is a local optional property tax exemption not reimbursable by the State. It would have no fiscal impact on the operations of the division. The amount of municipal residential real property potentially subject to this tax exemption is indeterminate.

Prepared by: Tara Jollie, Director
Division: Community and Regional Affairs
Approved by: Erin R. Notti, Commissioner
Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Phone: 907-269-7959
Date/Time: 1/31/08 7:07 PM
Date: 1/31/2008



25th ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS
www.aksenateminority.com

SENATOR GENE THERRIAULT, MINORITY LEADER
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 427, 465-4797 (FAX 465-3884)

SENATOR CON BUNDE
SENATOR FRED DYSON
SENATOR TOM WAGONER
SENATOR GARY WILKEN

Fact Sheet for : Senate Bill 204
Sponsor: Senator Gene Therriault

Contact: Ernest Prax, 465-4797

Short Title: Municipal Tax Exemption: Combat Deaths

Summary:

- Provides a partial or whole municipal property tax exemption to the widow or widower of a member of the United States' armed forces who is killed in the line of duty.
- Requires that the deceased served in active duty capacity, was eligible for hostile fire or imminent danger pay, and died within 90 days if having sustained combat related injuries.
- Requires that the widow or widower be a permanent Alaska resident.
- Allows a municipality the discretion to shape and opt-in to the property tax exemption.

Benefits:

- Provides financial relief to families of members of the United States' armed forces killed during combat operations.
- Honors the sacrifices made by members of the armed services and their families while protecting the United States from foreign aggression.

Background:

- Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom began on October 7, 2001 and March 20, 2003. Heeding their nation's call, men and women of the United States' armed forces left behind friends and family to serve our country. Sadly, not all returned home. In Alaska alone, over eighty soldiers have died in the Iraq and Afghanistan theatres of war. Many of these fallen soldiers' families have chosen to make Alaska their home. This bill will help to ease their financial and emotion burdens as well as to offer a token of appreciation by the citizens of Alaska.

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By: Hank Bartos
Introduced: 09/13/07
Amended: 09/13/07
Adopted: 09/13/07

THE FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

RESOLUTION NO. 2007 - 38

A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO AMEND STATE STATUTE TO ALLOW FOR AN EXEMPTION OF RESIDENTIAL MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAXES FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIFE IN ACTIVE-DUTY COMBAT.

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly and the Fairbanks community have the greatest pride and respect for the members of the Armed Forces and strongly support them; and

WHEREAS, the war in Iraq began in March of 2003 and in the years since thousands of men and women have made sacrifices for their country, for some the sacrifice has meant their lives; and

WHEREAS, the sacrifice made by these brave men and women extends to their families who struggle both emotionally and financially after their death; and

WHEREAS, the war has claimed more than 3700 casualties nationwide and more than 100 of those were military members stationed at military bases in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, several surviving spouses have chosen to make Alaska their permanent home; and

WHEREAS, everything that can be done should be done to ease the burden placed upon surviving spouses and their children; and

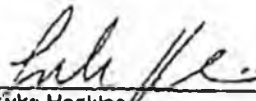
WHEREAS, a small way to extend our gratitude to these families is to offer surviving spouses of military members who have lost their life in combat an exemption of municipal property taxes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Assembly of the Fairbanks North Star Borough supports a change to state statute that would allow for the residential municipal property tax exemption for the surviving spouse of a military member killed in active duty combat.

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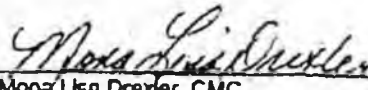
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the
Honorable Governor Sarah Palin and the Alaska Interior Delegation.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 13th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2007.



Luke Hopkins
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:



Mona Lisa Dreder, CMC
Municipal Borough Clerk

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Ayes: Bartos, Beck, Frank, Foote, Winters, Musick, Therrien, Hopkins
Noes: None
Excused: Rex

By: Jim Whitaker, Mayor
Introduced: August 16, 2007

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5 FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

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7 RESOLUTION NO. 2006 -

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9 A RESOLUTION THANKING THE INTERIOR DELEGATION TO THE ALASKA STATE
10 LEGISLATURE FOR THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE SGT. IRVING HERNANDEZ ACT
11 ALLOWING FOR THE EXEMPTION OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAXES FOR
12 SURVIVING SPOUSES OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED SERVICES WHO HAVE
13 LOST HIS OR HER LIFE IN ACTIVE COMBAT DUTY
14

15 WHEREAS, the greater Fairbanks area incorporates a seamless
16 community of military and civilian residents; and
17

18 WHEREAS, those of us residing here hold an immense degree of respect
19 and value for our military families; and
20

21 WHEREAS, there is no provision by which to allow for the same property
22 tax exemptions for the spouses of our fallen active duty military as there exists for our
23 veterans; and
24

25 WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough desired to better honor the
26 contributions of our active duty residents and their families; and
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28 WHEREAS, by sponsoring this legislation, the members of the Interior
29 Delegation have acted with forethought to rectify this situation in order for
30 municipalities to better honor the sacrifices of our fallen active duty military by initiation
31 of the above mentioned legislation; and
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33 WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough is grateful for their efforts;
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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Fairbanks North Star Borough joins the Mayor and the many borough residents who wish to honor our armed service personnel in thanking the following legislators, recognizing them as community role models for their efforts in the Alaska Legislature with the sponsorship of the Sgt. Irving Hernandez Act of 2007:

Senator Gene Therriault; Senator Joe Thomas; Senator Gary Wilken; Representative John Coghill; Representative David Guttenberg; Representative John Harris; Representative Scott Kawasaki; Representative Mike Kelly; and Representative Jay Ramras

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS ___ DAY OF _____, 2006.

Luke Hopkins
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Mona Lisa Drexler, MMC
Municipal Borough Clerk

A. René Broker
Borough Attorney



Fairbanks North Star Borough

Assembly

809 Pioneer Road

P.O. Box 71267

Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267 907/459-1401

Fax 907/459-1224

Email: clerks@co.fairbanks.ak.us

www.co.fairbanks.ak.us

January 25, 2008

The Honorable Senator Gene Theriault
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Re: Senate Bill 204

Dear Senator Theriault,

On behalf of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly and myself as presiding officer, I would like to thank you for introducing Senate Bill 204 – Property Tax Relief for Military Widows and Widowers.

In August of 2007 past Assemblymember Hank Bartos and Mayor Jim Whitaker were approached and met with Mrs. Susan Hernandez, the widow of Sgt. Irving Hernandez who had been stationed at Fort Wainwright Army Post in Fairbanks and who was killed by a fire while serving in the United States Army in Iraq. After the meeting with Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Bartos and Mayor Whitaker met with the Interior Delegation and suggested that a bill be introduced that would exempt a widow or a widower of a member of the United States Armed Forces who had been killed in the line of duty, from property taxes. We are grateful that you have moved forward with the information presented during this meeting and have introduced Senate Bill 204.

Sadly more than 80 soldiers stationed in Alaska have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. A property tax exemption is a very small way to show our gratitude for the sacrifices made by the military members and their families.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough supports Senate Bill 204 and urges the Alaska State Legislature to support it, providing some small measure of support and relief to the Alaskan families left behind by brave young men and women.

Sincerely,

Nadine Winters
Presiding Officer
Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly

r/encl.

cc: FNSB Assembly, Mayor Whitaker



Fairbanks North Star Borough

Office of the Mayor

809 Pioneer Road

P.O. Box 71267

Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267

907/459-1300

Fax 907/459-1102

Email mayor@co.fairbanks.ak.us

January 29, 2008

The Honorable Senator Gene Therriault
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Therriault,

I would like to thank you for your sponsorship of SB 204, also known as the Sgt. Irving Hernandez Act of 2007.

The greater Fairbanks area incorporates a seamless community of military and civilian residents. Those of us residing here hold an immense degree of respect and value for our military families. However, there is no provision by which to allow for the same property tax exemptions for the spouses of our fallen active duty military as there exists for our veterans.

This legislation allows our community to better honor the sacrifices and contributions of our active duty residents and their families.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough fully supports the passage of this legislation.

Regards,

Jim Whitaker, Mayor



217 Second Street, Suite 200 • Juneau, Alaska 99801
Tel (907) 586-1326 • Fax (907) 463-5480 • www.akml.org

February 14, 2008

Honorable Senator Gene Thierrault
Room 427
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Thierrault,

The Alaska Municipal League is well aware of SB204. While we are adamantly opposed to mandatory property tax exemptions, and hesitate a bit about some of the optional ones, we applaud you for your noble actions to provide relief for the widows and widowers of those men and women who have given their life for our country.

These families have paid the ultimate price and Alaska's boroughs and first class cities are proud to help those left behind put their lives back in order.

Again, we thank you for a property tax exemption bill that is really worthwhile.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kathie Wasseman'.

Kathie Wasseman
Executive Director

SB

2009

HFIN

FILE

