

SCOMM

120:16



Alaska State Legislature

UTILITIES RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

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SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 323

Rep. Bill Hudson

HB 323 makes technical changes to SB 133, which passed the legislature last year. SB 133 abolished the Alaska Public Utilities Commission (APUC) and established the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA).

The first change repeals the provision contained in SB 133 that statutorily obligated the RCA to co-locate with Alaska Oil & Gas Conservation Commission (AOGCC). The intention of this provision was to achieve cost savings through shared record storage facilities as well as clerical staff. The Department of Administration conducted a thorough review and determined that the economies of scale we had hoped to achieve could not be realized primarily due to the low cost of the current leased space of the RCA.

The second change corrects a drafting error. SB 133 allowed the commission to employ hearing "officers" instead of hearing "examiners". The difference is that the hearing "officer" need not be an attorney and the hearing "examiner" is an attorney. Hearing examiners are needed to adjudicate legal matters during the RCA's hearing process. This requires them to act as a judge during the hearing. The hearing examiner needs to be proficient in judicial proceedings, rules of evidence, and the rules of practice.

The final revision clarifies that the RCA may employ and utilize mediators as well as arbitrators in their hearing process. That was the intent of SB 133, however the language was unclear. Mediation is a less formal process than arbitration and more expeditious in finding common ground among the interested parties.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 323

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction) 2/8/00 Dept. Affected Dept. of Administration
 Title Regulatory Commission of Alaska/AOGCC BRU AOGCC
 Component AOGCC
 Sponsor Representative Hudson
 Requester House Special Committee on Utility Restructuring Component Serial No. 2010

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
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

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						
1108 Statutory Designated Rcpts						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY00) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation will not have a fiscal impact on the Commission.

Prepared by Robert N. Christenson, P.E. Phone _____
 Division AOGCC Date/Time 2/8/00 4:09 PM
 Approved by Commissioner [Signature] Date 2/8/00
 Agency _____

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House of Representatives

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Representative Norman Rokeberg

February 8, 2000

Special Committee on Utility Restructuring
Attn: Representative Bill Hudson

Re: AOGCC Leasehold

Dear Mr. Chairman,

As I indicated at the last meeting, I would check on the lease situation for the AOGCC. I talked to Ms. Loretta Delk, the Anchorage leasing officer for the Department of Administration. She informed me that the Department had withdrawn the RFP for the joint RCA/AOGCC premises and was awaiting direction for future action.

She indicated that the lease terms of the existing RCA lease were very favorable and that the building was not adequate for additional joint occupancy. Therefore, she recommended the AOGCC not co-locate with the RCA.

I would recommend that the AOGCC find new premises. The building they currently occupy is in an industrially zoned area in Anchorage. It is obsolete and inadequate for their purposes and activities. The state owns this building, but it has seen its better days. I recommend that the AOGCC be allowed to let new premises and that the state surplus the Mountain View building or find a better use for it. It is my understanding that the fiscal note from last year covers the rental costs for new premises for the agency. Therefore, it should not create a budget problem.

I hope this information is useful and regret that I will be unable to attend tomorrow's meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norman Rokeberg".

Norman Rokeberg
Representative
House District 11