

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1985-1986 86/2

4372 SSTA SB 391 - SCR 32 1251

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Alaska State Legislature

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IN SESSION:
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Senator Mitch Abood
CHAIRMAN

Senate Committee on State Affairs

April 9, 1986

LETTER OF INTENT - SCS CSHB 454 (SA) BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

It is the intent of the Senate State Affairs Committee in adopting the SCS for CSHB 454 (SA) that Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the bill comply with the initiative relating to the compensation for state legislators. These sections are included in HB 454 to bring into one measure related matters pertaining to compensation of state officers.

Some drafting changes were made to conform language of the proposed legislation to existing statutes and to correct errors; e.g., Section 1 of the bill v. Section 2 of the initiative.

A minor change is made in compensation of legislators performing official duties while the legislature is not in session. The initiative provides that actual expenses be reimbursed in lieu of per diem. The bill provides that per diem be paid, as was the practice at the time when the salary of legislators was the same as that set forth in Section 2 of the initiative. Provision of per diem, regardless disincentives to carrying out legislative work, to economizing on expenses, and to using low costs modes of travel and accommodations. The purpose of these revisions in the per diem language is to assure that legislators will be properly compensated for the performance of their constitutional duties and to avoid excessive individual expenses.

Both Sections 3 of the initiative and HB 454 provide for a report covering legislator's compensation to be made by the legislative fiscal officer. Under the initiative, the report is to be filed with the Office of Management and Budget in the Governor's Office. The Committee believes that such filing would be transgressing on the separation of power between the legislative and executive branches.

Therefore, SCS CSHB 454 (SA) provides that the report be filed with the Legislature's Fiscal Office. The basic purpose of the initiative -- providing a report available to the public -- is maintained under this minor change.

STATE OF ALASKA 1986 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: 4-3-86

REQUEST
Bill/Resolution No.: SSSB 391
Title: Act relating to the ethical
conduct of government.

FISCAL DETAIL
Agency Affected: Department of Administration
BRU: Division of Personnel

Sponsor: Rules by request of Governor
Requestor: Governor's Office
Date of Request: 4-1-86

Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	0	7.9	13.2	10.6	7.9	5.3
CONTRACTUAL	0	32.0	50.1	39.5	28.8	18.2
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0	0	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL OPERATING	0	39.9	63.3	50.1	36.7	23.5
CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	39.9	63.3	50.1	36.7	23.5
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	39.9	63.3	50.1	36.7	23.5

POSITIONS:

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

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page if necessary See attached.

Prepared By: Frank Raye, Director *Frank Raye* Phone: 465-4430
Division: Personnel Date: 4/3/86

Approved by Commissioner: Eleanor Andrews *Eleanor Andrews* Date: 4/4/86
Agency: Department of Administration

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

CONTINUATION of FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

For SSSB 391

This bill provides a code of ethics for the guidance of public officers and employees in the executive branch. It establishes procedures to determine if violations exist and requires the attorney general to investigate suspected violations and bring allegations before the State Personnel Board where appropriate. The Personnel Board's duties are to appoint a hearing officer in instances where the alleged violation is contested, adopt or amend hearing officers' recommendations, and impose penalties for confirmed violations.

The members of the State Personnel Board serve without compensation but are entitled to receive travel expenses and per diem when convened. The Board would have to retain independent counsel when they required legal advice to ensure the integrity of the proposed legislation.

It is anticipated that questions and determinations of activities which pose a possible violation of the code of ethics will be more numerous during the first twelve to eighteen months after the bill becomes effective. This assumption is reflected in the number of hearings and Personnel Board meetings budgeted for successive fiscal years.

	FY 87 Effective (1-1-87)	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91
<u>Hearings</u>	3	4	3	2	1
<u>Board Meetings</u>	3	5	4	3	2

No inflation factor is used.

Hearings: \$3,150

Hearing Officer - \$75 per hour x 30 hours = \$2,250
 Transcription and report preparation - \$30 per hour x 30 hours = \$900
 Contractual = \$3,150

Personnel Board Meetings (two days each): \$10,140

Travel - 3 members (and legal council) x \$540 = \$2,160
 Per diem - 3 members x \$80 x 2 days = \$480
 Travel = \$2,640

Legal Services - \$150 per hour x 50 hours = \$7,500
 Contractual = \$7,500

	<u>CONTRACTUAL</u>	<u>TRAVEL</u>
<u>FY 87</u>		
Hearings:	\$ 9,450	
Meetings:	22,500	\$ 7,920
	<u>\$31,950</u>	

	<u>CONTRACTUAL</u>	<u>TRAVEL</u>
<u>FY 88</u>		
Hearings:	\$12,600	
Meetings:	37,500	\$13,200
	<u>\$50,100</u>	
 <u>FY 89</u>		
Hearings:	\$ 9,450	
Meetings:	30,000	\$10,560
	<u>39,450</u>	
 <u>FY 90</u>		
Hearings:	\$ 6,300	
Meetings:	22,500	\$ 7,920
	<u>28,800</u>	
 <u>FY 91</u>		
Hearings:	\$ 3,150	
Meetings:	15,000	\$ 5,280
	<u>18,150</u>	

STATE OF ALASKA

BILL SHEFFIELD, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

POUCH K - STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
PHONE: (907) 465-3600

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 2, 1986

The Honorable Mitch Abood
Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Legislature
P. O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Abood:

This letter is written to provide the Senate State Affairs Committee with a sectional analysis of the Sponsor Substitute for Senate Bill 391, the proposed ethics law. The primary achievement of this bill is the establishment, in statute, of a code of ethics for all public officers in the executive branch. The bill replaces the relatively unknown and unworkable aspects of the common law on conflict of interests with more concrete standards. The standards have been developed with two somewhat competing goals in mind: the need to clearly establish high standards of conduct for executive branch officers and the desire to allow those officers to engage in personal and financial activities outside the public sector.

As you are aware, several attempts have been made in past years to enact legislation providing ethical standards for the executive branch. Most recently, Senate Bill 501 was introduced in 1984 at the request of Governor Sheffield, but it did not pass during the 13th Alaska Legislature.

The bill before you reflects the combined work of the Senate Special Committee on Procurement and Ethics and the Department of Law. It also represents a significant revision from the original bill, which created a separate commission to administer the law and was, in view of our current financial crisis, simply too expensive to be practical. We believe this revised bill creatively solves the funding problems while maintaining the critical substance of the code of ethics itself.

Hopefully the enclosed sectional analysis will answer many of your committee's concerns regarding the ethics bill;

The Honorable Mitch Abood, Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Legislature

April 2, 1986
Page 2

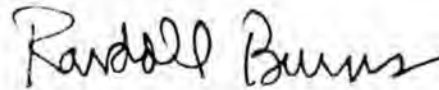
however, the staff of the Department of Law stands ready to assist the committee in its review and discussion of SSSB 391.

We appreciate the time and energy you and the other committee members and staff have devoted -- and will no doubt be devoting -- to this bill.

Sincerely yours,

HAROLD M. BROWN
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By:



Randall P. Burns
Special Assistant
to the Attorney General

RPB/glg

Enclosure

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

Section 1: This section of the bill amends AS 39 ("Public Officers and Employees") by adding a new chapter called the "Alaska Executive Branch Ethics Act." The proposed new Act contains six articles:

- Article 1: Declarations
- Article 2: Code of Ethics
- Article 3: Disclosure and Action to Prevent
Violation of Code
- Article 4: Complaints; Hearing Procedures
- Article 5: Enforcement; Remedies
- Article 6: General Provisions

Because sec. 1 comprises almost the entire bill, we have organized our analysis of sec. 1 by the articles listed above.

ARTICLE 1. DECLARATIONS.

Article 1 of the new chapter sets out legislative declarations. The important public purpose behind the need for and adoption of an executive-branch ethics statute requires a strong legislative statement in the statute itself.

Sec. 39.52.010. DECLARATION OF POLICY. AS 39.52.010 specifically states the legislature's belief in the value of a code of ethics for executive-branch officers as a safeguard of the public trust. ("Officers" is defined as all employees of executive-branch agencies and all members of boards or commissions.)

ARTICLE 2. CODE OF ETHICS.

Article 2 contains the code of ethics.

Sec. 39.52.110. SCOPE OF CODE. To clarify the intent behind the code of ethics, this section describes its scope. One of the major criticisms heard is that it is difficult to get qualified people to serve in public office. This section of the bill makes it clear that the legislature, in enacting the code of ethics, recognizes in a representative democracy, which draws its public officers from society, that those officers cannot and should not be without a personal or financial stake in Alaska, so long as those private interests do not interfere with the full and faithful discharge of the officer's public responsibilities. Additionally, this section clarifies the intent to distinguish between those minor and insignificant conflicts that are unavoidable in our free society and those conflicts that are substantial and material and must be prohibited.

While the code's subsequent provisions set out stern prohibitions on conduct, public officers are encouraged to have and maintain

private interests so long as those interests do not improperly benefit the officers through abuse of the responsibilities given to them by their public office.

The code of ethics establishes eight types of ethical violations: (1) misuse of official position; (2) improper acceptance or solicitation of gifts or benefits; (3) improper use or disclosure of information; (4) improper influence in state grants, contracts, leases, or loans; (5) improper representation; (6) acceptance of certain prohibited employment outside of government positions; (7) prohibited representation in matters after leaving state service; and (8) aiding in a violation of the code. AS 39.52.120 -- 39.52.190.

Sec. 39.52.120. MISUSE OF OFFICIAL POSITION. One of the clearest areas of public concern revolves around the conduct addressed in AS 39.52.120. This section prohibits a public officer from using, or attempting to use, an official position for personal gain or to intentionally secure unwarranted benefits for any person. AS 39.52.120(a).

Several types of actions are specifically mentioned as examples of misuse of official position: e.g., the use of one's position to extract other employment or contracts; the use of state time, property, or equipment to benefit the officer's personal or financial interests; the taking or withholding of official action by an officer in order to benefit the officer's personal or financial interests. This section also addresses the supervisor/subordinate relationship and prohibits activities that have in the past caused problems, including a prohibition against close economic associations between supervisors and subordinates, and activities that could suggest possible coercion of a subordinate by a supervisor. AS 39.52.120(b).

Sec. 39.52.130. IMPROPER GIFTS OR BENEFITS. This section addresses another potential abuse: the receipt of a gift or benefit under circumstances in which it could be inferred that the gift or benefit was intended to improperly influence the officer in the performance of his or her official duties. This section creates an objective -- rather than a subjective -- test by which the propriety of soliciting or receiving a gift or benefit can be judged from the viewpoint of a "reasonable person." Travel or hospitality given to aid a public officer in the performance of official duties may be accepted if the officer's designated supervisor (defined in AS 39.52.960) determines that acceptance does not interfere with the full and faithful discharge of the officer's public duties and responsibilities. AS 39.52.130(a).

The bill also sets up a reporting requirement for the receipt of a gift or benefit worth over \$25 if the public officer can take or withhold official action that benefits the giver. AS 39.52.130(b).

A designated supervisor may seek advice from the attorney general regarding the acceptance of gifts or benefits. AS 39.52.130(c).

The restrictions relating to gifts or benefits do not apply to campaign contributions to candidates for elected office so long as the contributions comply with the laws and regulations governing elections and campaign disclosure. AS 39.52.130(d).

Sec. 39.52.140. IMPROPER USE OR DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION. One commonly expressed complaint is that public officers are able to improperly benefit themselves or family members through the improper use of information gained in the course of their employment. The so-called "insider information" problem is the issue addressed in AS 39.52.140. This section specifically prohibits the use or disclosure of information that either has not been "communicated" to the public (AS 39.52.140(a)) or is confidential by law (AS 39.52.140(b)).

This section sets a fairly high standard. It requires, before officers (or members of their immediate families) can benefit personally or financially from the use or disclosure of information available, that the information first have "been communicated to the public." This means that the information was not simply "available" to the public, but that in some affirmative way the information was first communicated to others outside the agency, whether by newsletter, legislative testimony, a published report, a press release, a legal notice, a speech, etc. It is believed that more than just simple "availability" is necessary to avoid claims that public sector officers are acting improperly because of their access to potentially very beneficial information.

Sec. 39.52.150. IMPROPER INFLUENCE IN STATE GRANTS, CONTRACTS, LEASES, OR LOANS. Much public scrutiny has recently been focused on the conduct addressed by this provision of the code of ethics. This section prohibits an officer from improperly influencing state grant, contract, lease, or loan procedures. Specifically, a public officer or member of the officer's immediate family may not attempt to acquire, receive, apply for, be a party to, or have a personal or financial interest in a state grant, contract, lease, or loan if the public officer may take or withhold official action that affects its award, execution, or administration. AS 39.52.150(a). There are exceptions listed to this broad prohibition, which focus on the specific conditions under which the grant, contract, lease, or loan is solicited or awarded. AS 39.52.150(b) -- 39.52.150(c).

In addition, a public officer must report to the commission any personal or financial interests held by the officer or an immediate family member in any state grant, contract, lease, or loan that is awarded by the agency the officer serves. AS 39.52.150(d).

Sec. 39.52.160. IMPROPER REPRESENTATION. Another public concern addressed by the code is the issue of public officers using the advantage of their position in representation before public agencies to benefit their personal or financial interests. This section generally prohibits an officer from representing, advising, or assisting any person concerning a matter pending before the administrative unit that the officer serves. AS 39.52.160(a).

This prohibition does not apply, however, to activities related to collective bargaining, such as the processing of a grievance by an employee representative. AS 39.52.160(b).

In addition, this section clarifies, in the case of a non-salaried member of a board or commission, that the prohibition on representation does not preclude a member of a board or commission from taking responsibility for a matter affecting the member's personal business which is regulated by the very board or commission on which the member serves, so long as the member does not participate, deliberate, or vote on the particular matter when the issue comes before the board or commission for its review or determination. AS 39.52.160(c).

Sec. 39.52.170. OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTED. Although AS 39.52.110 makes it clear that holding employment outside of state service is acceptable, the public interest requires that certain restrictions be placed on this privilege. This section prohibits public employees from rendering services or accepting employment outside of their agencies if the outside service or employment is incompatible or in conflict with the proper discharge of their official duties. AS 39.52.170(a). As is currently required by personnel rules, public employees must quarterly report outside employment to their designated supervisor. AS 39.52.170(b).

Sec. 39.52.180. RESTRICTIONS ON EMPLOYMENT AFTER LEAVING STATE SERVICE. The most difficult area to address in this legislation is the post-employment situation. The public interest requires that some restrictions be placed on the range of activities that former public officers may perform in the private sector. Of course, regardless of whether employment is in the public or private sector, the expertise and knowledge one gains in a job are transferable skills that employees rightfully take with them and that enable the employees to seek more responsible positions. We must also consider that while Alaska has a relatively small workforce, government is the state's largest employer.

The development of a post-employment provision that places legitimate restrictions on the use of one's employment experience is, for these reasons, a difficult task. We believe that the post-employment section of this bill reflects a compromise between competing interests. That compromise protects the state's significant interests but does not unfairly restrict an officer's

ability to work in the private sector after leaving state service.

Specifically, AS 39.52.180 prohibits certain types of representation by former public officers for two years after leaving their public positions. The two-year ban is narrowly drawn: an officer is only prohibited from representing, advising, or assisting a person for compensation regarding a matter (1) that was under consideration by the administrative unit directly served

and (2) in which the officer participated personally and substantially through the exercise of official action. A "matter" is precisely defined to include a case, proceeding, application, contract, or determination, and does not include activities related to legislation or regulations. AS 39.52.180(a).

This section does not prevent an agency from contracting with a former public officer to act on the state's behalf. AS 39.52.180(b). Additionally, the head of an agency may waive, in writing, application of this section after determining that representation by a former public officer is not adverse to the public interest. A waiver is subject to the approval of the attorney general. AS 39.52.180(c).

Sec. 39.52.190. AIDING A VIOLATION. Finally, the bill simply states that it is an ethical violation for a public officer to knowingly aid another officer in a violation of AS 39.52.

ARTICLE 3. DISCLOSURE AND ACTION TO PREVENT VIOLATION OF CODE.

Article 3 sets out the various procedures that public officers have available to them for the prevention of a violation of the code of ethics. A major aspect of this legislation is its "preventative" posture. Public officers must be able to seek and receive prompt advice in order to avoid actions that might violate the code. It is these preventative procedures that give the bill its true strength, because it provides a positive approach to solving potential abuses and appropriately assists officers before the fact, rather than waiting for violations to occur which the attorney general must then prosecute.

Sec. 39.52.210. DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS BY PUBLIC EMPLOYEES. This section establishes a procedure for handling a potential violation of the code of ethics. A public employee who believes that he or she may be involved in a matter that could result in a violation of the code of ethics is required to immediately disclose the potential conflict to the designated supervisor and to refrain from taking any official action until a determination is made as to a possible conflict or ethical problem. AS 39.52.210(a).

The employee's designated supervisor shall then make a written determination of whether the employee's involvement could or does violate the code of ethics. AS 39.52.210(b). The supervisor shall reassign duties to cure the employee's violation, or direct the divestiture or removal by the employee of the conflicting personal or financial interests. Id. The supervisor may seek an advisory opinion from the attorney general. AS 39.52.210(c).

Sec. 39.52.220. DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS BY MEMBERS OF BOARDS OR COMMISSIONS. This section establishes procedures for handling a potential violation of the code of ethics by a member of a board or commission. A member of a board or commission who believes he or she may be involved in a matter that could result in a violation of a code of ethics must disclose the potential conflict on the record. AS 39.52.220(a). The board chair, as the designated supervisor, rules on whether or not the member's involvement could violate the code of ethics. Id. If a determination is made that a violation would exist if the member continued to participate, then the member must not only refrain from voting on the matter, but must also refrain from deliberating or participating in discussions regarding that particular matter. Id.

The designated supervisor or the board or commission may request advice from the attorney general. AS 39.52.220(b).

Sec. 39.52.230. REPORTING OF POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS. This section states that any person may report a potential violation of the code of ethics to a designated supervisor for review and appropriate action.

Sec. 39.52.240. ADVISORY OPINIONS. This section covers requests by designated supervisors, or boards or commissions, for advice from the attorney general regarding appropriate conduct under AS 39.52. It is important to note that requests for advisory opinions are confidential. AS 39.52.240(g).

Advisory opinions must be issued within 60 days after the attorney general receives a completed request. AS 39.52.240(a). Because, however, there may be instances where delay in the receipt of an opinion would cause substantial inconvenience or detriment to the requesting party, this section allows the attorney general to give oral advice. AS 39.52.240(b). The designated supervisor or board or commission then makes a determination regarding an ethical problem. AS 39.52.240(c). If the attorney general has suggested more than one alternative, the supervisor or board or commission will select the most appropriate way to avoid or correct the problem. Id.

A public officer is not liable under AS 39.52 for any action carried out in accordance with a supervisor's determination. AS 39.52.240(d). The attorney general can revise or revoke an advisory opinion at any time (AS 39.52.240(e)), but anyone may

rely on advisory opinions currently in effect (AS 39.52.240(f)). Attorney general opinions will be published in the Alaska Administrative Journal with sufficient deletions to prevent disclosure of the identities of persons involved. AS 39.52.240(h).

Sec. 39.52.250. ADVICE TO FORMER PUBLIC OFFICERS. Former public officers who need advice regarding their standing in relationship to the code of ethics may request an advisory opinion from the attorney general. AS 39.52.250(a). A former public officer who follows the advice of the attorney general is not liable under this new chapter for any action carried out in accordance with that advice, so long as the circumstances were fully disclosed. AS 39.52.250(b).

Sec. 39.52.260. DESIGNATED SUPERVISOR'S REPORT AND ATTORNEY GENERAL REVIEW. This section requires all designated supervisors to report to the attorney general any potential violations reported to them and the disposition of each matter. AS 39.52.260(a). The attorney general is required to review each of the reports filed, and may request additional information. AS 39.52.260(b). The report prepared by the supervisor is confidential and not available for public inspection unless formal proceedings are initiated as a result of a report filed. However, extracts of the report will be made available with sufficient deletions to prevent disclosure of any person's identity. AS 39.52.260(c).

ARTICLE 4. COMPLAINTS; HEARING PROCEDURES.

Article 4 of the new chapter establishes a complete process for handling complaints regarding violations of the provisions of AS 39.52.

Sec. 39.52.310. COMPLAINTS. This section sets out the procedures for handling a complaint, whether filed with the attorney general or initiated by the attorney general, and establishes the conditions under which a complaint will be accepted and investigated. The attorney general can initiate a complaint or elect to treat as a complaint a matter referred by a supervisor. AS 39.52.310(a). In addition, any person can file a complaint with the attorney general in writing. AS 39.52.310(b).

If a complaint alleges a violation by the governor, lieutenant governor, or the attorney general, the personnel board shall appoint independent counsel who shall act in place of the attorney general in reviewing the validity of the complaint filed and, if sufficient, taking the matter to hearing. AS 39.52.-310(c).

The attorney general shall review each complaint filed to determine whether it is properly completed and contains allegations which, if true, would constitute conduct in violation

of AS 39.52. A complaint may be dismissed (AS 39.52.310(d)) or referred to the appropriate supervisor or board chair for resolution (AS 39.52.310(e)).

If the attorney general accepts a complaint for investigation, the attorney general must provide a copy of the complaint to the subject of the complaint for a response. The subject of the complaint must respond within 20 days with full and fair disclosure in writing of all the facts and circumstances pertaining to the alleged violation. AS 39.52.310(f). The attorney general shall investigate to determine whether a violation of the chapter has occurred. AS 39.52.310(g). A violation of AS 39.52 can be investigated only within two years after discovery of the alleged violation. AS 39.52.310(h).

Sec. 39.52.320. DISMISSAL BEFORE FORMAL PROCEEDINGS. If it appears that there is no probable cause to believe that a violation of the chapter has occurred, the attorney general will dismiss the complaint and prepare and file with the personnel board a confidential summary of the matter. The attorney general is required to communicate disposition of this matter promptly to both the complainant and the subject of the complaint.

Sec. 39.52.330. CORRECTIVE OR PREVENTIVE ACTION. This section provides the attorney general with the latitude to recommend action to correct or prevent a violation of the law, if the conduct complained about does not warrant the initiation of formal proceedings. The subject of the complaint is required to comply with the attorney general's recommendation.

Sec. 39.52.340. CONFIDENTIALITY. Information obtained by the attorney general during an investigation is confidential, unless and until formal proceedings are initiated. AS 39.52.340(a). The attorney general and persons contacted during the course of an investigation are required to maintain confidentiality regarding the existence of the investigation. Id. A person who violates the confidentiality provisions of this section is guilty of a class A misdemeanor. Id.

It is not a violation of this section, however, for a person to contact an attorney or participate in a criminal investigation. AS 39.52.340(b). This section also provides that the subject of the complaint may, if he or she so chooses, waive the confidentiality protections of this section. AS 39.52.340(c).

Sec. 39.52.350. PROBABLE CAUSE. If the attorney general finds that there is probable cause to believe that an officer has violated the code of ethics, the attorney general initiates formal proceedings by serving an accusation upon the subject of the complaint. The accusation must specifically set out the alleged violation and, after service, is a public document. Except for deliberations of the personnel board, all subsequent proceedings are open to the public. AS 39.52.350(a).

The subject of the accusation must file an answer to the accusation. AS 39.52.350(b). If the subject denies that a violation has occurred, the attorney general shall refer the matter to the personnel board for appointment of a hearing officer to conduct a hearing. AS 39.52.350(c). If, however, the subject admits an ethical violation, the attorney general shall refer the matter to the personnel board to impose appropriate penalties. AS 39.52.350(d).

Sec. 39.52.360. HEARINGS. AS 39.52.360 establishes the formal hearing process to be followed if a matter is referred to the personnel board for hearing. The hearing officer appointed by the personnel board may conduct pre-hearing conferences, administer oaths, hold hearings, take testimony, and issue subpoenas upon application by a party. AS 39.52.360(a) and (b).

The attorney general presents the charges and has the burden of demonstrating by a preponderance of evidence that the subject of the accusation has violated the new chapter. AS 39.52.360(c). The subject of an accusation may be represented by counsel; each party has the opportunity to be heard and cross-examine witnesses. AS 39.52.360(d).

Hearings held under this section are not subject to the Administrative Procedure Act. AS 39.52.360(e). During the hearing itself, technical rules of evidence do not apply but the hearing officer's findings must be based upon reliable and relevant evidence. All testimony and other evidence taken at the hearing must be recorded and the evidence maintained. AS 39.52.360(f). At the conclusion of the hearing, the hearing officer may direct the submission of proposed orders (AS 39.52.360(g)), and within 30 days after the conclusion of the formal hearing, the hearing officer must file a written report with the personnel board containing the officer's findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendation (AS 39.52.360(h)).

Sec. 39.52.370. PERSONNEL BOARD ACTION. Either party to the hearing may protest the hearing officer's decision before the personnel board. Oral argument before the personnel board will be provided if requested. AS 39.52.370(a). The board may, for good cause shown, convene a hearing de novo or further augment the record with additional evidence. AS 39.52.370(b).

The personnel board shall review each report submitted by the hearing officer and any briefs filed and must either adopt or amend the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendation of the hearing officer. AS 39.52.370(c). The deliberations of the personnel board are not open to the public. Id. If the personnel board determines that a violation has occurred, it may impose certain civil penalties. AS 39.52.370(d). If the board determines that a violation has not occurred, it shall issue a written order of dismissal. Id. The personnel board secretary must promptly inform both parties

of the board's action. AS 39.52.370(e). The subject of the accusation may appeal the board's decision by filing an appeal in the superior court. AS 39.52.370(f).

Sec. 39.52.380. SUBPOENAS. This section gives the attorney general, independent counsel retained by the personnel board, the personnel board, and appointed hearing officers certain subpoena powers.

Sec. 39.52.390. SERVICE. This section dictates how service of an accusation and other documents must be accomplished.

ARTICLE 5. ENFORCEMENT; REMEDIES.

Article 5 describes the enforcement powers available to both the personnel board and the state when a violation of the ethics Act has occurred. Because we wish the attorney general and the personnel board to be able to take relatively swift action, we have provided for a wide range of civil remedies and penalties, as opposed to providing for criminal penalties for violation of the Act.

Sec. 39.52.410. VIOLATIONS; PENALTIES FOR MISCONDUCT. Under this section, if a public employee is found to have violated AS 39.52, the personnel board has the authority to order the employee to stop engaging in the illegal action; may order divestiture, establishment of a blind trust, restitution, or forfeiture; and recommend that the employee's agency take disciplinary action against that employee. AS 39.52.410(a).

If the personnel board determines that a non-salaried member of a board or commission has violated AS 39.52, it may order the member to refrain from voting, deliberating, or participating in the matter; order restitution; or, in appropriate cases, recommend that the governor remove the offending member from the board or commission. AS 39.52.410(b).

If the board determines that a former public officer has violated AS 39.52, it shall issue a public statement of its findings and seek the attorney general's assistance in pursuing all legal remedies against that individual. AS 39.52.410(c).

Finally, if the board finds the governor or lieutenant governor in violation of AS 39.52, the board shall report the matter to the Alaska State Senate with its findings. AS 39.52.410(d).

Sec. 39.52.420. DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR VIOLATION. This section states that a violation of the code of ethics contained in AS 39.52 is a valid reason for an executive-branch agency to discipline an employee. AS 39.52.420(a). An agency may initiate appropriate disciplinary action without waiting for the attorney general to file an accusation or the board to complete formal proceedings. AS 39.52.420(b).

Sec. 39.52.430. ACTIONS VOIDABLE. This section describes the actions that may be taken by the state if state grants, contracts, leases, or loans have been entered into or received in violation of AS 39.52.

Sec. 39.52.440. CIVIL PENALTIES. This section provides that the personnel board may impose civil penalties not to exceed \$5,000 on a current or former public officer for a violation of the ethics Act.

Sec. 39.52.450. PAYMENT OF TWICE THE FINANCIAL BENEFIT. This section gives the personnel board the authority to seek from a current or former public officer payment of up to twice the financial benefit realized by a person in violation of AS 39.52.

Sec. 39.52.460. CRIMINAL SANCTIONS ADDITIONAL. This section clarifies that the civil penalties provided for in art. 5 of the ethics Act are in addition to any criminal actions that may be pursued.

ARTICLE 6. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Sec. 39.52.910. APPLICABILITY. This section gives notice that the bill applies generally to all public officers in executive-branch agencies, and that AS 39.52 supersedes the common law on conflicts of interests, including replacement of the common law standard of "the appearance of impropriety" with the specific standards set out in the code of ethics in art. 2 of AS 39.52. AS 39.52.910(a) and (b). This chapter is not subject to collective bargaining. AS 39.52.910(c).

Sec. 39.52.920. AGENCY POLICIES. This section establishes that agencies have the authority to adopt written policies for their employees which are more restrictive than the code of ethics. These agency policies are subject to the attorney general's review and approval.

Sec. 39.52.930. COOPERATION. This section requires agencies in all branches of state government to cooperate fully with the attorney general and the personnel board in the performance of their duties.

Sec. 39.52.940. CONSTRUCTION. This section calls for a liberal construction of the bill's provisions in order to promote high ethical standards in state government.

Sec. 39.52.950. REGULATIONS. Under this section, the attorney general is empowered to adopt necessary regulations to implement AS 39.52.

Sec. 39.52.960. DEFINITIONS. This section of the new chapter sets out definitions for the new code of ethics.

Section 2: This section of the bill amends AS 39.25.060(c) to make the members of the personnel board removable only for cause. The additional responsibilities granted the board under the new ethics law require that the members of the personnel board be free from possible interference in the performance of their duties. Therefore, unless cause can be shown, the governor should be prohibited from freely removing personnel board members from office.

Section 3: This section amends AS 39.25.070, relating to the powers of the personnel board, to add authority to perform the functions granted to the board by the new ethics Act, including authority to appoint hearing officers, review the recommendations of hearing officers, determine whether a violation of the code of ethics had occurred, and impose penalties for a violation of the code.

Section 4: This section of the bill provides for consistency between AS 42.40, regarding employees of the Alaska Railroad, and the new AS 39.52, which covers employees of the railroad as well as directors of the Alaska Railroad Corporation.

Section 5: This section of the bill merely adds attorney general ethics advisory opinions to the list of items to be published in the Alaska Administrative Journal, consistent with the proposed requirement in AS 39.52.240(h) (sec. 1 of the bill).

Section 6: Because the enforcement and remedy provisions in the new ethics law do not take effect until January 1987, this section of the bill clarifies that the attorney general and the personnel board do not have jurisdiction over any alleged violation of the code of ethics occurring before January 1, 1987, unless the violation continues after that date.

Section 7: Under this section of the bill, an agency with an existing policy related to conflicts of interests or the ethical performance of official duties is required to submit that policy to the attorney general for necessary review and approval by January 1, 1987.

Section 8: The sections of the ethics law regarding policy, the issuance of advisory opinions, declarations of potential violations, and the definition section, take effect July 1, 1986.

Section 9: The code of ethics itself, the complaint and hearing procedures, and the law's enforcement and remedy provisions (AS 39.52.110 -- 39.52.190 and AS 39.52.310 -- 39.52.460) will take effect January 1, 1987.

Different effective dates have been provided so that public officers, immediately upon passage of the bill, may seek guidance from the attorney general concerning their standing under the new code of ethics, in order that any reassignments, transfers, or

divestitures that need to occur can be accomplished before the code of ethics, as well as the complaint process, is in force.

BILL SHEFFIELD
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

~~SB 391~~
SSSB391

April 2, 1986

The Honorable Don Bennett
President of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
P. O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Bennett:

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a sponsor substitute for Senate Bill 391, a bill relating to the ethical conduct of executive-branch officers. This sponsor substitute was necessitated by the substantial costs associated with the original version of SB 391, costs that primarily resulted from the creation of a separate commission to administer the new ethics Act.

While we adjudge the original version of SB 391 to be "perfect world" legislation, the version before you is one of those rarities: a compromise that substantially reduces the level of funding necessary while maintaining the bill's primary goal: the establishment -- in statute -- of a code of ethics for all public officers in the executive branch, and replacement of the relatively unknown and unworkable aspects of the common law on conflicts of interests with concrete standards of conduct.

The sponsor substitute continues to establish in AS 39 a new chapter entitled the "Alaska Executive Branch Ethics Act," but this sponsor substitute removes from the bill the creation of a separate commission to administer the new law. Instead, the bill relies upon two existing entities to shoulder responsibility for enforcement of the code of ethics: the Department of Law and the state's personnel board.

New staff positions in the Department of Law will 1) provide the executive branch with opinions and advice concerning the

substance and intent of the code of ethics, 2) accept and investigate legitimate complaints, and 3) take to formal hearing probable cause violations of the code. The state's personnel board, which has already had some limited experience in evaluating allegations of employee misconduct, will appoint hearing officers or independent counsel and act as the final determiner in matters that have gone to hearing, and will, through the provision of new enforcement powers to the board, order appropriate penalties and remedies.

As a result of conversations with representatives of various departments, language has been added to AS 39.52.130(a), providing for acceptance of travel or hospitality by department personnel if acceptance does not compromise an officer in the proper performance of his or her duties.

In this sponsor substitute, under certain conditions, a non-salaried member of a board or commission is not precluded from participating in personal or financial matters that are regulated by the board or commission on which the member serves. AS 39.52.160(c).

Sections 2 and 3 of the sponsor substitute amend existing statutes relating to the personnel board, to reflect the board's duties and responsibilities under this bill.

In addition, this substitute legislation does not transfer any of the financial disclosure reporting requirements from the current conflict of interests law (AS 39.50) to the new executive ethics chapter. Executive branch officials who currently file conflict of interest statements will continue to file their statements with the Alaska Public Offices Commission.

Because no transfer of financial disclosure reporting requirements is contained in this sponsor substitute, the bill's previous extensive amendments to AS 39.50 have been eliminated. While many of the proposed changes to AS 39.50 deserve the attention of the legislature, many of the changes exist in other bills currently before the legislature, and we have, for that reason, and for the sake of simplicity, dropped them from this substitute bill.

Finally, inasmuch as passage of the "whistleblower" legislation currently pending before the legislature appears likely, I have also removed similar whistleblower provisions from SB 391.

Hence, SSSB 391 is considerably shortened and much leaner than the original. A sectional analysis of the revised legislation follows, for the legislature's use in reviewing the proposed bill and for the use of future researchers.

I believe that this sponsor substitute deserves prompt attention by the legislature. Passage of a code of ethics for the executive branch is a priority of my administration and, I hope, a priority of the legislature as well.

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS
OF SSSB 391

Section 1: This section of the bill amends AS 39 ("Public Officers and Employees") by adding a new chapter called the "Alaska Executive Branch Ethics Act." The proposed new Act contains six articles:

- Article 1: Declarations
- Article 2: Code of Ethics
- Article 3: Disclosure and Action to Prevent
Violation of Code
- Article 4: Complaints; Hearing Procedures
- Article 5: Enforcement; Remedies
- Article 6: General Provisions

Because sec. 1 of SB 391 comprises almost the entire bill, we have decided to organize our analysis of sec. 1 by the articles listed above.

ARTICLE 1. DECLARATIONS.

Article 1 of the new chapter sets out legislative declarations. I believe that the important public purpose behind the need for and adoption of an executive-branch ethics statute requires a strong legislative statement in the statute itself.

Sec. 39.52.010. DECLARATION OF POLICY. AS 39.52.010 specifically states the legislature's belief in the value of a code of ethics for executive-branch officers as a safeguard of the public trust. ("Officers" is defined as all employees of executive-branch agencies and all members of boards or commissions.)

ARTICLE 2. CODE OF ETHICS.

Article 2 contains the code of ethics.

Sec. 39.52.110. SCOPE OF CODE. To clarify the intent behind the code of ethics, this section describes its scope. One of the major criticisms heard is that it is difficult to get qualified people to serve in public office. I wanted to make it clear in this section of the bill that the legislature, in enacting the code of ethics, recognizes in a representative democracy, which draws its public officers from society, that those officers cannot and should not be without a personal or financial stake in Alaska, so long as those private interests do not interfere with the full and

faithful discharge of the officer's public responsibilities. Additionally, this section clarifies the intent to distinguish between those minor and insignificant conflicts that are unavoidable in our free society and those conflicts that are substantial and material and must be prohibited.

While the code's subsequent provisions set out stern prohibitions on conduct, public officers are encouraged to have and maintain private interests so long as those interests do not improperly benefit the officers through abuse of the responsibilities given to them by their public office.

The code of ethics establishes eight types of ethical violations: (1) misuse of official position; (2) improper acceptance or solicitation of gifts or benefits; (3) improper use or disclosure of information; (4) improper influence in state grants, contracts, leases, or loans; (5) improper representation; (6) acceptance of certain prohibited employment outside of government positions; (7) prohibited representation in matters after leaving state service; and (8) aiding in a violation of the code. AS 39.52.120 -- 39.52.190.

Sec. 39.52.120. MISUSE OF OFFICIAL POSITION. One of the clearest areas of public concern revolves around the conduct addressed in AS 39.52.120. This section prohibits a public officer from using, or attempting to use, an official position for personal gain or to intentionally secure unwarranted benefits for any person. AS 39.52.120(a).

Several types of actions are specifically mentioned as examples of misuse of official position: e.g., the use of one's position to extract other employment or contracts; the use of state time, property, or equipment to benefit the officer's personal or financial interests; the taking or withholding of official action by an officer in order to benefit the officer's personal or financial interests. This section also addresses the supervisor/subordinate relationship and prohibits activities that have in the past caused problems, including a prohibition against close economic associations between supervisors and subordinates, and activities that could suggest possible coercion of a subordinate by a supervisor. AS 39.52.120(b).

Sec. 39.52.130. IMPROPER GIFTS OR BENEFITS. This section addresses another potential abuse: the receipt of a gift or benefit under circumstances in which it could be inferred that the gift or benefit was intended to improperly influence the officer in the performance of his or her official duties. This section creates an objective -- rather than a subjective -- test by which the propriety of soliciting or receiving a gift or benefit can be judged from the viewpoint of a "reasonable person." Travel or hospitality given to aid a public officer in the performance of official duties may be accepted if the officer's designated

supervisor (defined in AS 39.52.960) determines that acceptance does not interfere with the full and faithful discharge of the officer's public duties and responsibilities. AS 39.52.130(a).

The bill also sets up a reporting requirement for the receipt of a gift or benefit worth over \$25 if the public officer can take or withhold official action that benefits the giver. AS 39.52.130(b).

A designated supervisor may seek advice from the attorney general regarding the acceptance of gifts or benefits. AS 39.52.130(c).

The restrictions relating to gifts or benefits do not apply to campaign contributions to candidates for elected office so long as the contributions comply with the laws and regulations governing elections and campaign disclosure. AS 39.52.130(d).

Sec. 39.52.140. IMPROPER USE OR DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION. One commonly expressed complaint is that public officers are able to improperly benefit themselves or family members through the improper use of information gained in the course of their employment. The so-called "insider information" problem is the issue addressed in AS 39.52.140. This section specifically prohibits the use or disclosure of information that either has not been "communicated" to the public (AS 39.52.140(a)) or is confidential by law (AS 39.52.-140(b)).

This section sets a fairly high standard. It requires, before officers (or members of their immediate families) can benefit personally or financially from the use or disclosure of information available, that the information first have "been communicated to the public." This means that the information was not simply "available" to the public, but that in some affirmative way the information was first communicated to others outside the agency, whether by newsletter, legislative testimony, a published report, a press release, a legal notice, a speech, etc. It is believed that more than just simple "availability" is necessary to avoid claims that public sector officers are acting improperly because of their access to potentially very beneficial information.

Sec. 39.52.150. IMPROPER INFLUENCE IN STATE GRANTS, CONTRACTS, LEASES, OR LOANS. Much public scrutiny has recently been focused on the conduct addressed by this provision of the code of ethics. This section prohibits an officer from improperly influencing state grant, contract, lease, or loan procedures. Specifically, a public officer or member of the officer's immediate family may not attempt to acquire, receive, apply for, be a party to, or have a personal or financial interest in a state grant, contract,

lease, or loan if the public officer may take or withhold official action that affects its award, execution, or administration. AS 39.52.150(a). There are exceptions listed to this broad prohibition, which focus on the specific conditions under which the grant, contract, lease, or loan is solicited or awarded. AS 39.52.150(b) -- 39.52.150(c).

In addition, a public officer must report to the commission any personal or financial interests held by the officer or an immediate family member in any state grant, contract, lease, or loan that is awarded by the agency the officer serves. AS 39.52.150(d).

Sec. 39.52.160. IMPROPER REPRESENTATION. Another public concern addressed by the code is the issue of public officers using the advantage of their position in representation before public agencies to benefit their personal or financial interests. This section generally prohibits an officer from representing, advising, or assisting any person concerning a matter pending before the administrative unit that the officer serves. AS 39.52.160(a).

This prohibition does not apply, however, to activities related to collective bargaining, such as the processing of a grievance by an employee representative. AS 39.52.160(b).

In addition, this section clarifies, in the case of a non-salaried member of a board or commission, that the prohibition on representation does not preclude a member of a board or commission from taking responsibility for a matter affecting the member's personal business which is regulated by the very board or commission on which the member serves, so long as the member does not participate, deliberate, or vote on the particular matter when the issue comes before the board or commission for its review or determination. AS 39.52.160(c).

Sec. 39.52.170. OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTED. Although AS 39.52.110 makes it clear that holding employment outside of state service is acceptable, the public interest requires that certain restrictions be placed on this privilege. This section prohibits public employees from rendering services or accepting employment outside of their agencies if the outside service or employment is incompatible or in conflict with the proper discharge of their official duties. AS 39.52.170(a). As is currently required by personnel rules, public employees must quarterly report outside employment to their designated supervisor. AS 39.52.170(b).

Sec. 39.52.180. RESTRICTIONS ON EMPLOYMENT AFTER LEAVING STATE SERVICE. The most difficult area to address in this legislation is the post-employment situation. The public interest requires that some restrictions be placed on the

range of activities that former public officers may perform in the private sector. Of course, regardless of whether employment is in the public or private sector, the expertise and knowledge one gains in a job are transferable skills that employees rightfully take with them and that enable the employees to seek more responsible positions. We must also consider that while Alaska has a relatively small workforce, government is the state's largest employer.

The development of a post-employment provision that places legitimate restrictions on the use of one's employment experience is, for these reasons, a difficult task. I believe that the post-employment section of this bill reflects a compromise between competing interests. That compromise protects the state's significant interests but does not unfairly restrict an officer's ability to work in the private sector after leaving state service.

Specifically, AS 39.52.180 prohibits certain types of representation by former public officers for two years after leaving their public positions. The two-year ban is narrowly drawn: an officer is only prohibited from representing, advising, or assisting a person for compensation regarding a matter (1) that was under consideration by the administrative unit directly served and (2) in which the officer participated personally and substantially through the exercise of official action. A "matter" is precisely defined to include a case, proceeding, application, contract, or determination, and does not include activities related to legislation or regulations. AS 39.52.180(a).

This section does not prevent an agency from contracting with a former public officer to act on the state's behalf. AS 39.52.180(b). Additionally, the head of an agency may waive, in writing, application of this section after determining that representation by a former public officer is not adverse to the public interest. A waiver is subject to the approval of the attorney general. AS 39.52.180(c).

Sec. 39.52.190. AIDING A VIOLATION. Finally, the bill simply states that it is an ethical violation for a public officer to knowingly aid another officer in a violation of AS 39.52.

ARTICLE 3. DISCLOSURE AND ACTION TO PREVENT VIOLATION OF CODE.

Article 3 sets out the various procedures that public officers have available to them for the prevention of a violation of the code of ethics. A major aspect of this legislation is its "preventative" posture. Public officers must be able to seek and receive prompt advice in order to avoid actions that might violate the code. It is these preventative procedures that give the bill its true

strength, because it provides a positive approach to solving potential abuses and appropriately assists officers before the fact, rather than waiting for violations to occur which the attorney general must then prosecute.

Sec. 39.52.210. DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS BY PUBLIC EMPLOYEES. This section establishes a procedure for handling a potential violation of the code of ethics. A public employee who believes that he or she may be involved in a matter that could result in a violation of the code of ethics is required to immediately disclose the potential conflict to the designated supervisor and to refrain from taking any official action until a determination is made as to a possible conflict or ethical problem. AS 39.52.210(a).

The employee's designated supervisor shall then make a written determination of whether the employee's involvement could or does violate the code of ethics. AS 39.52.210(b). The supervisor shall reassign duties to cure the employee's violation, or direct the divestiture or removal by the employee of the conflicting personal or financial interests. Id. The supervisor may seek an advisory opinion from the attorney general. AS 39.52.210(c).

Sec. 39.52.220. DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS BY MEMBERS OF BOARDS OR COMMISSIONS. This section establishes procedures for handling a potential violation of the code of ethics by a member of a board or commission. A member of a board or commission who believes he or she may be involved in a matter that could result in a violation of a code of ethics must disclose the potential conflict on the record. AS 39.52.220(a). The board chair, as the designated supervisor, rules on whether or not the member's involvement could violate the code of ethics. Id. If a determination is made that a violation would exist if the member continued to participate, then the member must not only refrain from voting on the matter, but must also refrain from deliberating or participating in discussions regarding that particular matter. Id.

The designated supervisor or the board or commission may request advice from the attorney general. AS 39.52.220(b).

Sec. 39.52.230. REPORTING OF POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS. This section states that any person may report a potential violation of the code of ethics to a designated supervisor for review and appropriate action.

Sec. 39.52.240. ADVISORY OPINIONS. This section covers requests by designated supervisors, or boards or commissions, for advice from the attorney general regarding appropriate conduct under AS 39.52. It is important to note that requests for advisory opinions are confidential. AS 39.52.240(g).

Advisory opinions must be issued within 60 days after the attorney general receives a completed request. AS 39.52.-240(a). Because, however, there may be instances where delay in the receipt of an opinion would cause substantial inconvenience or detriment to the requesting party, this section allows the attorney general to give oral advice. AS 39.52.240(b). The designated supervisor or board or commission then makes a determination regarding an ethical problem. AS 39.52.240(c). If the attorney general has suggested more than one alternative, the supervisor or board or commission will select the most appropriate way to avoid or correct the problem. Id.

A public officer is not liable under AS 39.52 for any action carried out in accordance with a supervisor's determination. AS 39.52.240(d). The attorney general can revise or revoke an advisory opinion at any time (AS 39.52.240(e)), but anyone may rely on advisory opinions currently in effect (AS 39.52.240(f)). Attorney general opinions will be published in the Alaska Administrative Journal with sufficient deletions to prevent disclosure of the identities of persons involved. AS 39.52.240(h).

Sec. 39.52.250. ADVICE TO FORMER PUBLIC OFFICERS. Former public officers who need advice regarding their standing in relationship to the code of ethics may request an advisory opinion from the attorney general. AS 39.52.250(a). A former public officer who follows the advice of the attorney general is not liable under this new chapter for any action carried out in accordance with that advice, so long as the circumstances were fully disclosed. AS 39.52.250(b).

Sec. 39.52.260. DESIGNATED SUPERVISOR'S REPORT AND ATTORNEY GENERAL REVIEW. This section requires all designated supervisors to report to the attorney general any potential violations reported to them and the disposition of each matter. AS 39.52.260(a). The attorney general is required to review each of the reports filed, and may request additional information. AS 39.52.260(b). The report prepared by the supervisor is confidential and not available for public inspection unless formal proceedings are initiated as a result of a report filed. However, copies of the report will be made available with sufficient deletions to prevent disclosure of a person's identity. AS 39.52.260(c).

ARTICLE 4. COMPLAINTS; HEARING PROCEDURES.

Article 4 of the new chapter establishes a complete process for handling complaints regarding violations of the provisions of AS 39.52.

Sec. 39.52.310. COMPLAINTS. This section sets out the procedures for handling a complaint, whether filed with the

attorney general or initiated by the attorney general, and establishes the conditions under which a complaint will be accepted and investigated. The attorney general can initiate a complaint or elect to treat as a complaint a matter referred by a supervisor. AS 39.52.310(a). In addition, any person can file a complaint with the attorney general in writing. AS 39.52.310(b).

If a complaint alleges a violation by the governor, lieutenant governor, or the attorney general, the personnel board shall appoint independent counsel who shall act in place of the attorney general in reviewing the validity of the complaint filed and, if sufficient, taking the matter to hearing. AS 39.52.310(c). The attorney general shall review each complaint filed to determine whether it is properly completed and contains allegations which, if true, would constitute conduct in violation of AS 39.52. A complaint may be dismissed (AS 39.52.310(d)) or referred to the appropriate supervisor or board chair for resolution (AS 39.52.310(e)).

If the attorney general accepts a complaint for investigation, the attorney general must provide a copy of the complaint to the subject of the complaint for a response. The subject of the complaint must respond within 20 days with full and fair disclosure in writing of all the facts and circumstances pertaining to the alleged violation. AS 39.52.310(f). The attorney general shall investigate to determine whether a violation of the chapter has occurred. AS 39.52.310(g). A violation of AS 39.52 can be investigated only within two years after discovery of the alleged violation. AS 39.52.310(h).

Sec. 39.52.320. DISMISSAL BEFORE FORMAL PROCEEDINGS. If it appears that there is no probable cause to believe that a violation of the chapter has occurred, the attorney general will dismiss the complaint and prepare and file with the personnel board a confidential summary of the matter. The attorney general is required to communicate disposition of this matter promptly to both the complainant and the subject of the complaint.

Sec. 39.52.330. CORRECTIVE OR PREVENTIVE ACTION. This section provides the attorney general with the latitude to recommend action to correct or prevent a violation of the law, if the conduct complained about does not warrant the initiation of formal proceedings. The subject of the complaint is required to comply with the attorney general's recommendation.

Sec. 39.52.340. CONFIDENTIALITY. Information obtained by the attorney general during an investigation is confidential, unless and until formal proceedings are initiated. AS 39.52.340(a). The attorney general and persons contacted

during the course of an investigation are required to maintain confidentiality regarding the existence of the investigation. Id. A person who violates the confidentiality provisions of this section is guilty of a class A misdemeanor. Id.

It is not a violation of this section, however, for a person to contact an attorney or participate in a criminal investigation. AS 39.52.340(b). This section also provides that the subject of the complaint may, if he or she so chooses, waive the confidentiality protections of this section. AS 39.52.340(c).

Sec. 39.52.350. PROBABLE CAUSE. If the attorney general finds that there is probable cause to believe that an officer has violated the code of ethics, the attorney general initiates formal proceedings by serving an accusation upon the subject of the complaint. The accusation must specifically set out the alleged violation and, after service, is a public document. Except for deliberations of the personnel board, all subsequent proceedings are open to the public. AS 39.52.350(a).

The subject of the accusation must file an answer to the accusation. AS 39.52.350(b). If the subject denies that a violation has occurred, the attorney general shall refer the matter to the personnel board for appointment of a hearing officer to conduct a hearing. AS 39.52.350(c). If, however, the subject admits an ethical violation, the attorney general shall refer the matter to the personnel board to impose appropriate penalties. AS 39.52.350(d).

Sec. 39.52.360. HEARINGS. AS 39.52.360 establishes the formal hearing process to be followed if a matter is referred to the personnel board for hearing. The hearing officer appointed by the personnel board may conduct pre-hearing conferences, administer oaths, hold hearings, take testimony, and issue subpoenas upon application by a party. AS 39.52.360(a) and (b).

The attorney general presents the charges and has the burden of demonstrating by a preponderance of evidence that the subject of the accusation has violated the new chapter. AS 39.52.360(c). The subject of an accusation may be represented by counsel; each party has the opportunity to be heard and cross-examine witnesses. AS 39.52.360(d).

Hearings held under this section are not subject to the Administrative Procedure Act. AS 39.52.360(e). During the hearing itself, technical rules of evidence do not apply but the hearing officer's findings must be based upon reliable and relevant evidence. All testimony and other evidence taken at the hearing must be recorded and the evidence maintained. AS 39.52.360(f). At the conclusion of the hearing,

the hearing officer may direct the submission of proposed orders (AS 39.52.360(g)), and within 30 days after the conclusion of the formal hearing, the hearing officer must file a written report with the personnel board containing the officer's findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendation (AS 39.52.360(h)).

Sec. 39.52.370. PERSONNEL BOARD ACTION. Either party to the hearing may protest the hearing officer's decision before the personnel board. Oral argument before the personnel board will be provided if requested. AS 39.52.370(a). The board may, for good cause shown, convene a hearing de novo or further augment the record with additional evidence. AS 39.52.370(b).

The personnel board shall review each report submitted by the hearing officer and any briefs filed and must either adopt or amend the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendation of the hearing officer. AS 39.52.370(c). The deliberations of the personnel board are not open to the public. Id. If the personnel board determines that a violation has occurred, it may impose certain civil penalties. AS 39.52.370(d). If the board determines that a violation has not occurred, it shall issue a written order of dismissal. Id. The personnel board secretary must promptly inform both parties of the board's action. AS 39.52.370(e). The subject of the accusation may appeal the board's decision by filing an appeal in the superior court. AS 39.52.370(f).

Sec. 39.52.380. SUBPOENAS. This section gives the attorney general, independent counsel retained by the personnel board, the personnel board, and appointed hearing officers certain subpoena powers.

Sec. 39.52.390. SERVICE. This section dictates how service of an accusation and other documents must be accomplished.

ARTICLE 5. ENFORCEMENT; REMEDIES.

Article 5 describes the enforcement powers available to both the personnel board and the state when a violation of the ethics Act has occurred. Because we wish the attorney general and the personnel board to be able to take relatively swift action, we have provided for a wide range of civil remedies and penalties, as opposed to providing for criminal penalties for violation of the Act.

Sec. 39.52.410. VIOLATIONS; PENALTIES FOR MISCONDUCT. Under this section, if a public employee is found to have violated AS 39.52, the personnel board has the authority to order the employee to stop engaging in the illegal action; may order divestiture, establishment of a blind trust, restitution, or forfeiture; and recommend that the employee's

agency take disciplinary action against that employee. AS 39.52.410(a).

If the personnel board determines that a non-salaried member of a board or commission has violated AS 39.52, it may order the member to refrain from voting, deliberating, or participating in the matter; order restitution; or, in appropriate cases, recommend that the governor remove the offending member from the board or commission. AS 39.52.410(b).

If the board determines that a former public officer has violated AS 39.52, it shall issue a public statement of its findings and seek the attorney general's assistance in pursuing all legal remedies against that individual. AS 39.52.410(c).

Finally, if the board finds the governor or lieutenant governor in violation of AS 39.52, the board shall report the matter to the Alaska State Senate with its findings. AS 39.52.410(d).

Sec. 39.52.420. DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR VIOLATION. This section states that a violation of the code of ethics contained in AS 39.52 is a valid reason for an executive-branch agency to discipline an employee. AS 39.52.420(a). An agency may initiate appropriate disciplinary action without waiting for the attorney general to file an accusation or the board to complete formal proceedings. AS 39.52.420(b).

Sec. 39.52.430. ACTIONS VOIDABLE. This section describes the actions that may be taken by the state if state grants, contracts, leases, or loans have been entered into or received in violation of AS 39.52.

Sec. 39.52.440. CIVIL PENALTIES. This section provides that the personnel board may impose civil penalties not to exceed \$5,000 on a current or former public officer for a violation of the ethics Act.

Sec. 39.52.450. PAYMENT OF TWICE THE FINANCIAL BENEFIT. This section gives the personnel board the authority to seek from a current or former public officer payment of up to twice the financial benefit realized by a person in violation of AS 39.52.

Sec. 39.52.460. CRIMINAL SANCTIONS ADDITIONAL. This section clarifies that the civil penalties provided for in art. 5 of the ethics Act are in addition to any criminal actions that may be pursued.

ARTICLE 6. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Sec. 39.52.910. APPLICABILITY. This section gives notice that the bill applies generally to all public officers in executive-branch agencies, and that AS 39.52 supersedes the common law on conflicts of interests, including replacement of the common law standard of "the appearance of impropriety" with the specific standards set out in the code of ethics in art. 2 of AS 39.52. AS 39.52.910(a) and (b). This chapter is not subject to collective bargaining. AS 39.52.910(c).

Sec. 39.52.920. AGENCY POLICIES. This section establishes that agencies have the authority to adopt written policies for their employees which are more restrictive than the code of ethics. These agency policies are subject to the attorney general's review and approval.

Sec. 39.52.930. COOPERATION. This section requires agencies in all branches of state government to cooperate fully with the attorney general and the personnel board in the performance of their duties.

Sec. 39.52.940. CONSTRUCTION. This section calls for a liberal construction of the bill's provisions in order to promote high ethical standards in state government.

Sec. 39.52.950. REGULATIONS. Under this section, the attorney general is empowered to adopt necessary regulations to implement AS 39.52.

Sec. 39.52.960. DEFINITIONS. This section of the new chapter sets out definitions for the new code of ethics.

Section 2: This section of the bill amends AS 39.25.060(c) to make the members of the personnel board removable only for cause. The additional responsibilities granted the board under the new ethics law require that the members of the personnel board be free from possible interference in the performance of their duties. Therefore, unless cause can be shown, the governor should be prohibited from freely removing personnel board members from office.

Section 3: This section amends AS 39.25.070, relating to the powers of the personnel board, to add authority to perform the functions granted to the board by the new ethics Act, including authority to appoint hearing officers, review the recommendations of hearing officers, determine whether a violation of the code of ethics had occurred, and impose penalties for a violation of the code.

Section 4: This section of the bill provides for consistency between AS 42.40, regarding employees of the Alaska Railroad, and the new AS 39.52, which covers employees of the railroad as well as directors of the Alaska Railroad Corporation.

Section 5: This section of the bill merely adds attorney general ethics advisory opinions to the list of items to be published in the Alaska Administrative Journal, consistent with the proposed requirement in AS 39.52.240(h) (sec. 1 of the bill).

Section 6: Because the enforcement and remedy provisions in the new ethics law do not take effect until January 1987, this section of the bill clarifies that the attorney general and the personnel board do not have jurisdiction over any alleged violation of the code of ethics occurring before January 1, 1987, unless the violation continues after that date.

Section 7: Under this section of the bill, an agency with an existing policy related to conflicts of interests or the ethical performance of official duties is required to submit that policy to the attorney general for necessary review and approval by January 1, 1987.

Section 8: The sections of the ethics law regarding policy, the issuance of advisory opinions, declarations of potential violations, and the definition section, take effect July 1, 1986.

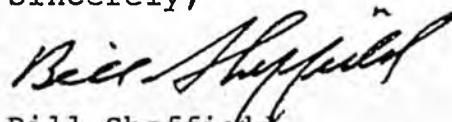
Section 9: The code of ethics itself, the complaint and hearing procedures, and the law's enforcement and remedy provisions (AS 39.52.110 -- 39.52.190 and AS 39.52.310 -- 39.52.460) will take effect January 1, 1987.

I have provided different effective dates so that public officers, immediately upon passage of the bill, may seek guidance from the attorney general concerning their standing under the new code of ethics, in order that any reassignments, transfers, or divestitures that need to occur can be accomplished before the code of ethics, as well as the complaint process, is in force.

CONCLUSION

Several attempts have been made in past years to enact legislation providing ethical standards for the executive branch. Most recently at my request, SB 501 was introduced in 1984, but it did not pass during the Thirteenth Alaska Legislature. I strongly endorse this bill and urge its serious consideration and passage this session, especially in its now-revised form.

Sincerely,



Bill Sheffield
Governor



- a TO appear on 2908
1986 primary ballot

The above Sponsor is duly
authorized to circulate

INITIATIVE PETITION

ENTITLED "PRESCRIBING COMPENSATION FOR STATE LEGISLATORS"

PROPOSITION #83-04

If enacted, this proposed bill would amend state law providing for compensation to state legislators. It would establish the monthly salary for legislators at Step A, Range 10 (currently equal to \$1,757) of the salary schedule in AS 39.27.011(a). The bill would also authorize per diem payments for legislators while the legislature is in session. When not in session, legislators on interim committee business would receive reimbursement of actual expenses only. In addition, the proposed bill would require the legislative fiscal officer to report annually to the Office of Management and Budget on all vouchers approving payments to legislators during the year.

WARNING

"A PERSON WHO SIGNS A NAME OTHER THAN HIS OWN ON THIS PETITION, OR WHO KNOWINGLY SIGNS HIS NAME MORE THAN ONCE FOR THE SAME PROPOSITION AT ONE ELECTION, OR WHO SIGNS THE PETITION KNOWING HE OR SHE IS NOT A QUALIFIED VOTER, UPON CONVICTION IS PUNISHABLE BY A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$1,000 OR BY IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE YEAR, OR BOTH. (AS 15.45.100)"

(See next page for text of bill.)

RECEIVED
OCT 1984
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

COMPLETED

AN INITIATIVE

For An Act Entitled: "An Act relating to the compensation for state legislators."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

*Section 1. AS 24.15.010 is reenacted to read:

Sec. 24.15.010. Legislature per diem.

(a) During the legislative session, each member of the legislature is entitled to receive per diem at the same rate allowed for a state employee under AS 39.20.110 and 39.20.160, including regional variations in the rate where applicable.

(b) A legislator is entitled to receive per diem at the short-term rate during a legislative session if he does not live in his place of permanent residence during the session.

(c) A legislator is entitled to receive per diem at the long-term rate during a legislative session if he lives in his place of permanent residence during the session.

(d) When the legislature is not in session, instead of receiving per diem a legislator is entitled to be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred while he is on committee business for an interim committee of the legislature in a place which is not his place of permanent residence.

(e) In this section

- (1) "long-term rate" means the long-term per diem rate established in regulations adopted by the commissioner of administration under AS 39.20.160;
- (2) "short-term rate" means the short-term per diem rate established in regulations adopted by the commissioner of administration under AS 39.20.160.

*Section 2. AS 24.15.020 is amended to read:

Sec. 24.15.020. Salary of legislators. The monthly salary for each member of the legislature is equal to Step A, Range 10, [22] of the salary schedule in AS 39.27.011(a) for Juneau, Alaska. The president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives are each entitled to an additional \$500 a year during tenure of office.

*Section 3. AS 24.15.040 is amended to read:

Sec. 24.15.040. Method of Payment. Salaries, per diem and additional allowances for members of the legislature shall be paid by warrants drawn on vouchers approved by the legislative fiscal officer. The Legislative fiscal officer shall, by January 31 of each calendar year, file with the Office of Management and Budget a report of all vouchers approved for payment pursuant to this section during the preceding calendar year. The report shall provide, by legislator, the date of each voucher, the amount paid and the basis for approval for payment.

*Section 4. Any provisions of the Alaska Statutes inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed.



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James O. Smith
Signature of Camera Operator

11/24/89
Date

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STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH Y - STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907 465 3800

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Annulment of regulations (SB 401)

TO: Senator Mitchell Abood

FROM: Tamara Brandt Cook *TBC*
Director
Division of Legal Services

You have asked whether the legislature may reinstate a previously adopted regulation rather than just annulling the regulation that replaces it. Under AS 44.62.320 the legislature is specifically authorized to annul a regulation, but has no power to adopt or reinstate a regulation. The section was considered by the court and held unconstitutional in A.L.I.V.E. Voluntary, 606 P.2d 769 (Alaska 1980). The basis for the decision is the failure to follow the constitutionally prescribed method of enacting law by resorting to a concurrent resolution for the annulment, so the legislature retains the power to annul regulations by law. The court in that case stressed the constitutionally defined mechanics of legislation as the form that must be used by the legislature if an act is to have the force of law. The court stated

Of course, when the legislature wishes to act in an advisory capacity it may act by resolution. However, when it means to take action having a binding effect on those outside the legislature it may do so only by following the enactment procedures. (Id at page 773, emphasis added)

A regulation does have the force of law, in that it has a binding effect. Consequently, while the legislature may delegate to an executive branch agency the power to adopt regulations, it may not adopt regulations itself, because the method whereby a regulation is adopted does not conform to the constitutionally mandated procedures for enacting legislation. If the legislature wishes to preserve the effect of a regulation that has been repealed or amended by

Senator Abood
Page 2
February 20, 1986

an agency, the legislature may always incorporate the provisions it wishes to preserve into statute. A statute, of course, has priority over any inconsistent regulation. (AS 44.62.030)

TBC:csh
c6/002

POSITION PAPER
SB 401

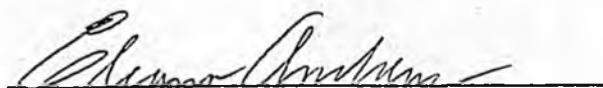
This legislation annuls 34 administrative regulations promulgated by the Alaska Public Offices Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62). The specific regulations to be annuled include all long-standing and newly-revised regulations, twenty-nine in number, "[N]ecessary to implement and clarify the provisions of" AS 15.13, Alaska's Campaign Disclosure Law. AS 15.13.030(10). The remaining five regulations annuled by the bill are general provisions, procedural in nature, which are also applicable to AS 24.45, Regulation of Lobbying, and to AS 39.50, Conflict of Interest. The latter regulations include the Commission's procedures for handling complaints, preliminary investigations, hearings, and advisory opinions.

These changes would affect approximately 200 state candidates, 350 municipal candidates in 24 municipalities, over 250 political groups, and their major contributors. Candidates, groups, and contributors desiring to comply with AS 15.13 would be unsure of their responsibilities and would swamp the Commission with anxious inquiries. Those desiring to operate unfettered by the requirements of Alaska law would claim they didn't know their actions were improper.

With the 1986 campaigns well underway, the Commission would be required -- in order to assist those campaigns and in order to comply with its enabling legislation -- to publicize its intent to adopt Campaign Disclosure regulations and then to undertake the adoption of emergency regulations. Since emergency regulations are effective only for a short period of time, a notice of intent to adopt permanent regulations would also be undertaken as soon as the emergency action was complete. The process would require 6-9 months and additional funding due to the size of the task and the requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act.


Exec. Dir., Public Offices Commission

2/18/86
Date


Commissioner Eleanor Andrews
Department of Administration

2/18/86
Date



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Alaska State Legislature

CO-CHAIRMAN
FINANCE COMMITTEE
907-465-3740



JAN FAIKS
POUCH V
CAPITOL BUILDING
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

Senate

February 25, 1986

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Mitch Abood, Chairman
Senate State Affairs Committee

FROM: Senator Jan Faiks

SUBJECT: Background Information on Senate Bill 412, an Act
relating to claims against the state

Alaska Statutes 44.77.010 - 070 establish procedures for a person who wishes to file a claim for labor, services, materials, or supplies furnished to the State.

The claim must first be submitted to an administrative or executive officer. If the officer denies his claim, then the claimant may obtain review of the denial by the Department of Administration.

Only if both the officer and the Department deny the claim, or the latter takes no action on the request for one year, may the person seek judicial review of the State's decision. In that event, the current law says that a person can file a legal action in Superior Court. There, his claim would be governed by the procedures for introducing evidence and all of the other formalities of a civil lawsuit.

Section 1 and 2 of this bill will change this system by entitling the person to a judicial review according to simpler procedures which are now contained in our Administrative Procedure Act. Rather than beginning anew with the issue, the court would be able to review the evidence already presented on the claim and then judge the State's decisions accordingly.

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These amendments were suggested by the Alaska Supreme Court in order to further judicial economy without significantly impairing the rights of claimants. These persons will still have full court review of their denied claims. However, they will avoid the expense and delay of having to present these claims in the context of a formal, civil lawsuit.

Section 3 deals with the consequences of a November, 1985, court decision. In the case of State v. Dupere, the Supreme Court decided that the claims procedure applied not only to the executive branch, but also to the legislative and judicial branches.

Currently, AS 44.77.070 exempts from this system any department in the executive branch which has adopted its own mandatory claims and appeal procedure.

Section 3 of the bill will extend this exemption to departments of the legislative and judicial branches once they adopt a claims and appeals procedure. By allowing the judicial and legislative branches to adopt their own system and to avoid a review of their matters by a department of the executive branch, the bill will further the principle of separation of powers.



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STATE OF ALASKA 1986 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: _____

<u>REQUEST</u> Bill/Resolution No.: <u>SB 420</u> Title: <u>"An Act relating to repealing outside service ..."</u>	<u>FISCAL DETAIL</u> Agency Affected: <u>Department of Education</u> BRJ: <u>Retirement & Benefits, TRS State Match</u>
Sponsor: <u>p. Fischer</u> Requestor: <u>p. Fischer</u> Date of Request: <u>2/20/86</u>	Components: <u>Retirement & Benefits, (TRS), TRS State Match</u>

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91
OPERATING						
PERSONAL SERVICES						
RTMNT & BNFTS		[17.1]	[18.5]	[19.9]	[21.5]	[23.3]
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
TRS MATCH		[114.2]	[123.3]	[133.2]	[143.9]	[155.3]
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	[131.3]	[141.8]	[153.1]	[165.4]	[178.6]
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		[131.3]	[141.8]	[153.1]	[165.4]	[178.6]
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	[131.3]	[141.8]	[153.1]	[165.4]	[178.6]

POSITIONS:

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

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page if necessary

See attached

Prepared By: J.K. Humphreys, Director
 Division: Retirement & Benefits Phone: 465-4470
 Date: 2/24/86

Approved by Commissioner: Eleanor Andrews
 Agency: Department of Administration Date: 2/26/86

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

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

Senate Bill 420
Fiscal Note Analysis
Prepared by Division of Retirement & Benefits
Department of Administration
February 24, 1986

ANALYSIS: Passage of this bill would prohibit members of the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) from claiming outside service if they joined TRS on or after July 1, 1986.

This bill would decrease the state TRS contribution rate by .025% in FY 87. The state TRS payroll is estimated to be \$68,569,578 in FY 87 and to increase by 8% each year thereafter. The TRS state match contribution rate would also decrease by .025% in FY 87. The TRS state match payroll is estimated to be \$456,833,417 for FY 87 and to increase by 8% each year thereafter.

The state savings of [\$131.3] are calculated as follows:

The decrease in TRS contribution rate
(.025%) times the estimated FY 87 state
TRS payroll (\$68,569,578) equaling: [\$17,100.00]

Plus the decrease in TRS state match
contribution rate (.025%) times the
estimated FY 87 state match payroll
(\$456,833,417) equaling: [\$114,200.00]

Total FY 87 savings [\$131,300.00]

In addition to the state's savings above, School Districts' savings would be:

FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91
[\$97.1]	[\$104.9]	[\$113.3]	[\$122.3]	[\$132.1]



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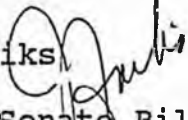
JAN FAIKS
POUCH V
CAPITOL BUILDING
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

Senate

February 25, 1986

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Mitch Abood, Chairman
Senate State Affairs Committee

FROM: Senator Jan Faiks 

SUBJECT: Background on Senate Bill 423, an Act creating a missing persons information clearinghouse.

The locating of missing persons has been hampered in this state by the lack of consistent procedures for receiving, processing, and sharing information about lost persons. Each law enforcement agency seems to have its own method for handling reports of missing persons, for dealing with relatives of the victim, and for coordinating search efforts with others.

Often, this lack of consistency has resulted in undue expense to the government and needless anxiety for friends and relatives. The problem is aggravated by the vastness of our state. A body washed up on the shores of the Bering Sea is not matched with a missing persons report filed in Ketchikan. Village officials continue to investigate the disappearance of a teenager long after she has been found by authorities in Fairbanks.

By creating a central repository for collecting and handling information about missing persons, Senate Bill 423 should relieve these problems.

Section 1 establishes the Clearinghouse and requires it to create a statewide system for handling information about missing persons. The Clearinghouse will collect and disseminate this information throughout Alaska. It will communicate with the National Crime Information Center about missing persons cases, and will train officials on how to best to use the Clearinghouse.

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This section places a duty on all law enforcement agencies to send to the Clearinghouse all reports of missing persons who have not been found within three days.

It also allows agencies to obtain medical and dental records that will help identify bodies. If relatives of the missing persons are available, family members must file a request for these records before the agencies can acquire them. If no relatives are available, the law enforcement agencies can obtain records on their own initiative. The agencies must send these records to the Clearinghouse.

For failing to turn over reports to the Clearinghouse or records to the agencies, the bill provides a maximum civil penalty of \$10,000.

The bill also requires persons to notify the Clearinghouse once persons who are reported missing are located. The failure to comply with this requirement carries a maximum civil penalty of \$1000.

Section 2 of the bill amends a current statute which deals with procedures for handling missing persons reports within the Department of Public Safety. This section adds the additional duty of filing these reports with the Clearinghouse.



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Date



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Signature of Camera Operator

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Date

SCR

32

Senator Vic Fischer

Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V • Juneau, Alaska 99811 • (907) 465-4954



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M

February 10, 1986

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Senator Mitch Abood, Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee

From: Senator Vic Fischer *Vic*

Re: SCR 32 - U.S. Constitution Bicentennial

Attached is background material relating to this resolution. The impetus comes from some of my conservative, New Right friends, but I'm sure the intent is to be broad in terms of the spectrum of and participation in this enterprise.

This is a marvelous idea, and I do hope the resolution can be moved along soon.

Thanks.

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U.S. Constitution Bicentennial

Events to be marked in 1986 and 1987

1986

January 16

Adoption of Thomas Jefferson's Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom. Later it became model for the First Amendment.

January 21

Virginia invites separate states to a commercial conference in Annapolis, Maryland, to revise the Articles of Confederation. James Madison is author of the idea.

February 28

Great Britain indicates it will not honor 1783 Peace Treaty of Paris, that calls for a withdrawal of its troops from the Great Lakes, until debts by former American colonists are settled.

June to September

A major economic depression reaches its deepest point throughout thirteen states.

August 7

Congress agrees to the proposal for revising the Articles of Confederation.

August 31

Armed insurgents prevent the Massachusetts Court from sitting.

September 5

First of a series of violent outbursts over farmers' debts being collected by the courts.

The State Supreme Court sitting in Worcester, Massachusetts is broken up by armed insurgents.

September 11-14

Annapolis Convention. Five states attend, debate revisions of the Articles of Confederation, set May 1787 for a constitutional convention to be held in Philadelphia.

September 26

Armed insurgents, five hundred strong, in Springfield, Massachusetts, force the state's Supreme Court to adjourn over the debt issue.

December

Shays Rebellion is climax of other violence in the year over court-collected debts.

1987

January 25

Shays' rebels attack and seize the Federal Arsenal at Springfield, Massachusetts.

February 4

Shays Rebellion is crushed and his followers scattered.

February 21

Congress adopts resolution calling on states to meet in Philadelphia, May 14, for a Constitutional Convention.

February to May

Delegates are named to the Constitutional Convention.

May 14

Convention delayed with only two state delegations present.

May 25

Convention finally opens with the necessary quorum of seven states present.

May 29

Virginia Plan drawn up by James Madison goes beyond revising the Articles of Confederation and proposes drafting a new document.

June 15

New Jersey submits a nine-point plan to protect smaller states, stressing retention of the Articles of Confederation.

July 5

New York delegation quits the Convention, protesting the historic meeting was going beyond revising the Articles of Confederation. Alexander Hamilton remains as the lone delegate from New York.

July 13

Northwest Ordinance adopted while Convention meets. Act lays groundwork

for political organization of settlements beyond thirteen original states.

July 16

Connecticut's compromise is submitted. Votes in the Senate would be based on equality with one vote for each state, and House votes based on population.

July 24

Convention's Committee of Detail begins work on framing specifics of the document.

August 6

Great Debate on particulars of the Constitution begins over terms of office and powers of Congress to regulate foreign and interstate commerce.

September 17

Final approval of the U.S. Constitution is given and it is signed.

September 19

New Constitution is published for the first time in Philadelphia papers.

September 26 and 28

Calls are heard from dissident Convention delegates to censure Congress for going beyond revision of the Articles of Confederation.

September 28

Congress calls for the states to convene conventions of ratification and sends draft of the document to the separate thirteen state capitals.

October 27

First of the Federalist Papers, authored by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay, is published.

December 7

Delaware becomes the first state to ratify, unanimously, the new Constitution.

December 12

Pennsylvania ratifies the document, 46 to 23.

December 18

New Jersey, by unanimous vote, is the third state to ratify the Constitution.

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

January 28, 1986

Hon. Vic Fischer
Alaska State Senate
Pouch Y
Juneau, Ak. 99811

Dear ~~Senator Fischer,~~ ^{Vic.}

A number of us citizens, anticipating the two hundredth anniversary of the American Constitution next year, think we should take the opportunity to celebrate our freedom and to reflect on the frame of government that makes it possible. The Constitution is often cited, less often read, and too often taken for granted by citizens who owe their place in a free government to its wise dispositions.

The State of Alaska exists because of the success of the American government under the Constitution in expanding the horizons of freedom toward the west. The Constitution of our State is based on the American Constitution and shares the same spirit. It seems fitting for our State to observe this bicentenary as an opportunity to rekindle and deepen the appreciation that our citizens share for the American Constitution.

This anniversary offers us a splendid opportunity to examine and strengthen the foundations of our democratic republic by encouraging public discussion and observance of the Constitution in our cities and villages, in our schools and universities. The education in the principles of free government which close attention to the American Constitution affords would have a salutary effect on public deliberations in Alaska.

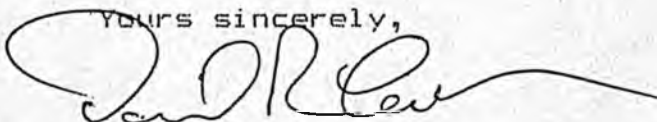
We offer the resolution enclosed and would be very pleased if you were willing to co-sponsor it. The resolution proposes that a commission be named, whose membership might consist of about fifteen Alaskans, one-third to be appointed by each of the three great departments of government--the Legislature, the Executive, and the Supreme Court. Similar commissions have already been formed by many States; and there is also a national commission to observe the anniversary.

The Board of Directors of the Polaris Institute, on which one of us sits, voted unanimously last weekend to make observance of this anniversary its chief project for the coming year, and the Institute has plans for a number of activities in keeping with the occasion. (The Institute is a nonprofit, non-partisan educational foundation incorporated under the laws of the State of Alaska.) A number of programs to celebrate the anniversary are now underway in Alaska, sponsored by the Alaska Humanities Forum, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Department of Political Sci-

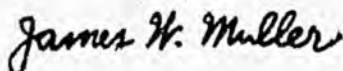
ence at the University of Alaska, Anchorage; but we believe it appropriate for the State of Alaska to take its part as well.

We would be very pleased to talk to you about this proposal and about how the commission might operate. Your support for this idea would help to guarantee that our own respect for constitutional government is passed on to the next generation of Alaskans.

Yours sincerely,



Daniel R. Cowden
1408B Walrus Cir.
Eagle River, Ak. 99577



James W. Muller
470 E. 56th Ave., Apt. B
Anchorage, Ak. 99518

encl.

Joint Resolution

Whereas: The Constitution, of the United States, which Gladstone called "the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man," is the oldest written frame of government that has been in continuous use by a free people on earth; and

Whereas: Government under the Constitution in America has provided an example of self-government that has inspired a yearning for freedom all over the world; and

Whereas: The bicentenary of the Constitution is in the year of our era nineteen hundred eighty-seven and of the independence of the United States two hundred eleven; and

Whereas: The State of Alaska proudly takes its place among the Union of States under the Constitution; now therefore

Be it resolved: That the State of Alaska shall appoint a Commission to commemorate the bicentenary of the Constitution of the United States of America; and

That the year 1987 shall be proclaimed the Year of the Constitution of the United States of America, to be commemorated by appropriate public observances for citizens throughout the State of Alaska.

Senator Vic Fischer

Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V • Juneau, Alaska 99811 • (907) 465-4954



February 5, 1986

To: Tamara Cook, Director
Legislative Legal Services

From: Senator Vic Fischer

Re: Drafting request/Constitution bicentenary

I would like a resolution drafted, reflecting my sponsorship, regarding the bicentenary of the U.S. Constitution, modeled after the attached.
I would like a draft back as soon as possible in order to meet the February 14 deadline for filing personal bills.

Please contact Ginger Baim at 4954, should you have any questions or need additional information.

February 5, 1986

WHEREAS the Constitution of the United States is the oldest written frame of government that has been in continuous use by a free people on earth; and

WHEREAS government under the Constitution in America has provided an example of self-government that has inspired a yearning for freedom all over the world; and

WHEREAS the bicentenary of the Constitution is in 1987 which is also the 211th year on independence of the United States; and

WHEREAS the State of Alaska proudly takes its place among the Union of States under the Constitution; and

WHEREAS in anticipation of the two hundredth anniversary of the American Constitution, we should take the opportunity to celebrate our freedom and to reflect on the frame of government that makes it possible; and

WHEREAS the Constitution is often cited, less often read, and too often taken for granted by citizens who owe their place in a free government to its wise dispositions; and

WHEREAS this anniversary offers us a splendid opportunity to examine and strengthen the foundations of our democratic republic by encouraging public discussion and observance of the Constitution in our cities and villages, in our schools and universities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State legislature requests the Governor of the State of Alaska to appoint a Commission to commemorate the bicentenary of the Constitution of the United States of America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the year 1987 shall be proclaimed the Year of the Constitution of the United States of America, to be commemorated by appropriate public observances for citizens throughout the State of Alaska.