

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1991-1992 8672  
7714 SENATE STATE AFFAIRS

268

HB

447

POSITION PAPER - Department of Public Safety

**BILL NO:** SCS CSHB 447(SA)

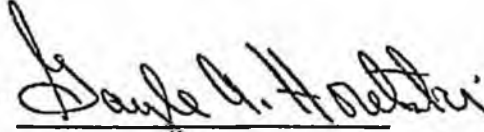
**DATE:** April 9, 1992

**TITLE:** An Act requiring a person under 13 years of age to wear a personal flotation device

**CONTACT:** G: A. Horetski  
Deputy Commissioner  
465-4322

SCS CSHB 447(SA) requires that persons under the age of 13 years wear a United States Coast Guard approved Type I, Type II, or Type III personal flotation device while being transported on the deck of a watercraft or in an open watercraft on the water of the state. "Watercraft" is defined in AS 05.25.100(3), and includes "every description of vessel. . .devoted to recreational pursuits"; commercial vessels thus do not fall under this bill. This legislation also requires that a person under 13 years of age being towed on water skis, a surfboard, or similar device wear an approved personal flotation device.

The Department of Public Safety supports this legislation, as accidental drownings are a very serious problem in Alaska. Although enforcement of this provision would be as scarce trooper resources allow, and would be prioritized with other calls for service, the existence of the law itself is quite likely to increase the numbers of children wearing life jackets while on board recreational boats in Alaska, and thus is likely to help save lives.

  
for Richard L. Burton  
Commissioner

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

3111 C STREET  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503  
(907) 561-2034

WHILE IN SESSION  
STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182  
(907) 465-4843



LABOR & COMMERCE

STATE AFFAIRS

**REPRESENTATIVE BETTY BRUCKMAN**

**Sponsor Statement**

**HB 447**

**"Requiring a person under 13 years of age to wear a personal flotation device"**

I have introduced HB 447 to reduce the tragic number of lives lost each year in Alaska to drowning. Last year 37 people drowned in Alaska; this is 28 times the national average. In some Alaskan communities drowning is the leading cause of death. Ironically, Alaska remains one of only a few states left without a personal flotation device wearing requirement.

According to U.S. Coast Guard reports, victims who drown while wearing personal flotation devices are extremely rare. In 1991, 90% of commercial fishermen who drowned in Alaska were not wearing P.F.D.s. However, of those fishermen who were saved, 55% wore personal flotation devices. In areas of the state with high numbers of drowning victims, local councils and assemblies have already passed ordinances mandating personal flotation device use.

HB 447 does not effect an adult's right to make personal safety decisions. However, while persons older than age 13 will still be able to make informed decisions about P.F.D. use, Alaskan children will now be protected from death by drowning. Drowning accounted for 27% of all child injury deaths in Alaska during 1980-1985.

Although HB 447 only targets children, it is my hope that people who wear personal flotation devices when they are young will choose to continue wearing them as adults. Parents of children now required to wear P.F.D.s may also be influenced by HB 447: as they put their children into personal flotation devices they may think twice about going without P.F.D.s themselves.

I urge you to join many Alaskan boating and health and safety organizations in supporting HB 447. We can no longer stand idly by, watching Alaskan children be lost to death by drowning, a death which is easily preventable. We must act now to protect those who are not old enough to understand the risks of not wearing a personal flotation device.

Sponsor Statement

## Answers to questions about HB 447:

- 1. Will HB 447 affect the Alaska State Ferry System? No, "watercraft" as defined by AS 05.25.100(3) is a vessel "devoted to recreational pursuits".**
- 2. Will HB 447 apply to commercial fishing boats? No, again the definition of "watercraft" specified by HB 447 excludes all commercial vessels.**
- 3. What safety requirements for watercraft already exist under State Law? Under AS 05.25.010(b), "A watercraft operated on inland waters must carry at least one life preserver, or lifebelt, or ring buoy, or other device of the sort approved by the United States Coast Guard for each person on board, so placed as to be readily accessible. A watercraft carrying passengers for hire must carry, so placed as to be readily accessible, at least one life preserver of the sort approved by the United States Coast Guard for passenger-carrying watercraft for each person on board."**
- 4. What are the penalties for violating HB 447? The maximum penalty in place for violations of provisions listed under AS 5.25 is as specified by AS 5.25.090: "a fine of not more than \$500, or by imprisonment of not more than 6 months, or by both, for each violation".**
- 5. Will HB 447 affect an adult's right to make personal safety decisions? No, HB 447 only mandates the use of personal flotation devices by children 13 and under. HB 447 continues to allow adults to make informed decisions about P.F.D. use while protecting children from death by drowning.**
- 7. Are Personal Flotation Devices Expensive? No, Type II flotation devices can be bought for between ten and fifteen dollars. In quantities of fifty or more they can be purchased for as little as eight dollars.**

QUESTIONS / ANSWERS

**9. Why are inflatable P.F.D.s not mentioned in HB 447?** Inflatable P.F.D.s or "Hybrids" fall into the U.S. Coast Guard Type V classification. These are not recommended for adult use by the U.S. Coast Guard because of the high level of maintenance required to maintain their buoyancy capability and the extra time needed for inflation if an accident occurs and passengers are not actually wearing their P.F.D.s. No companies presently produce Type V flotation devices in child sizes.

**10. Who will enforce HB 447?** On state waters the Department of Public Safety will be responsible for enforcement. In state parks Park Rangers will enforce HB 447.

**11. Why are commercial fishing vessels not included in HB 447?** The federal government explicitly considered requiring personal flotation devices to be worn at all times by persons on board commercial fishing vessels. They chose not to include this stipulation in their new regulations because of the additional hazards presented by P.F.D.s that may snag nets or otherwise interfere with fishing operations when worn. The federal government concluded that the potential harm outweighed possible benefits incurred by a requirement for P.F.D. use, including requirements for children.

Additionally, since November 15, 1991 commercial fishing vessels in Alaska now are required to carry immersion suits for each person on board.

There have been no child drownings from commercial fishing boats in the last five years where P.F.D.s would have saved the child's life. (One child died when trapped in the cabin of a boat which sank.) Statistics are not available for years previous to 1985 but experts in the field agree that child drownings from commercial fishing boats were extremely rare or nonexistent.

**12. How much compliance can we expect after enactment of HB 447?** Experts agree that a P.F.D. wearing requirement compliance rate should run analogous to seat belt laws. Therefore, we can expect an automatic 50% P.F.D. wearing rate almost immediately after enactment. With enforcement and education efforts this figure could be even further increased.

# **CORRECTION**

**THIS DOCUMENT  
HAS BEEN REPHOTOGRAPHED  
TO ASSURE LEGIBILITY**

## Answers to questions about HB 447:

- 1. Will HB 447 affect the Alaska State Ferry System?** No, "watercraft" as defined by AS 05.25.100(3) is a vessel "devoted to recreational pursuits".
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- 7. Are Personal Flotation Devices Expensive?** No, Type II flotation devices can be bought for between ten and fifteen dollars. In quantities of fifty or more they can be purchased for as little as eight dollars.

QUESTIONS / ANSWERS

**6. Why does HB447 specifically target persons age 13 and under? Many other states with P.F.D. wearing requirements target only children. The most common cut-off age for P.F.D. requirements across the country is age 12. Arizona, Delaware, Kansas, Louisiana, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah all have statutes directed at children 12 and under.**

Children react very differently from adolescents or adults in a panic situation. Even children who have had swimming lessons forget how to swim when they fall in the water. According to the Children's Health Care System "young children are developmentally unable to perform the necessary survival skills in a panic situation. Drownings and near drownings happen quietly and quickly. Young children do not know how to right themselves and will not be able to yell for help, splash or kick."

Adolescents, although not yet legally adults, have much more mature panic responses than children. They are also better able to understand the risks involved with not wearing a personal flotation device.

**8. What are Coast Guard approved Type I, Type II and Type III flotation devices? A Type I P.F.D. or Off-Shore Life Jacket is effective for all waters, especially open, rough or remote waters where rescue may be delayed. It is designed to turn most unconscious wearers in the water to a face-up position. The Type I comes in two sizes. The adult size provides at least 22 pounds buoyancy, the child size, 11 pounds, minimum.**

A Type II P.F.D. or Near-Shore Buoyant Vest is intended for calm, inland water or where there is a good chance of quick rescue. This type will turn some unconscious wearers to a face-up position in the water. The turning action is not as pronounced and it will not turn as many persons under the same conditions as a Type I. An adult size device provides 15 and 1/2 pounds buoyancy, a medium child size provides 11 pounds. Infant and small child sizes each provide at least 7 pounds buoyancy.

A Type III P.F.D. or Flotation Aid is good for calm, inland water, or where there is a good chance of quick rescue. It is designed so wearers can place themselves in a face-up position in the water. The wearer may have to tilt their head back to avoid turning face-down in the water. The Type III has the same minimum buoyancy as a Type II P.F.D. It comes in many styles, colors and sizes and is generally the most comfortable type for continuous wear. Float coats, fishing vests and vests designed with features suitable for various sports activities are examples of this type P.F.D.

**9. Why are inflatable P.F.D.s not mentioned in HB 447?** Inflatable P.F.D.s or "Hybrids" fall into the U.S. Coast Guard Type V classification. These are not recommended for adult use by the U.S. Coast Guard because of the high level of maintenance required to maintain their buoyancy capability and the extra time needed for inflation if an accident occurs and passengers are not actually wearing their P.F.D.s. No companies presently produce Type V flotation devices in child sizes.

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Additionally, since November 15, 1991 commercial fishing vessels in Alaska now are required to carry immersion suits for each person on board.

There have been no child drownings from commercial fishing boats in the last five years where P.F.D.s would have saved the child's life. (One child died when trapped in the cabin of a boat which sank.) Statistics are not available for years previous to 1985 but experts in the field agree that child drownings from commercial fishing boats were extremely rare or nonexistent.

**12. How much compliance can we expect after enactment of HB 447?** Experts agree that a P.F.D. wearing requirement compliance rate should run analogous to seat belt laws. Therefore, we can expect an automatic 50% P.F.D. wearing rate almost immediately after enactment. With enforcement and education efforts this figure could be even further increased.

13. What waters will HB 447 have jurisdiction in? In waters of the state; this includes rivers and lakes inland as well as coastal waters up to three miles off shore. There is currently a dispute about state jurisdiction on federal land in Alaska. The state of Alaska asserts that federal lands are ultimately under state jurisdiction, the federal government disagrees. Legal opinion is that this would probably only become an issue on a military base, in which case federal officials could still choose to enforce the state law.

**DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES**

**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY  
STATE OF ALASKA**

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450  
FAX (907) 465-2029  
Mail Stop 3101

240 Main Street, Suite 500  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2101

**MEMORANDUM**

February 20, 1992

**SUBJECT:** HB 447: Definition of watercraft

**TO:** Representative Betty Bruckman  
ATTN: Heather Hulseman

**FROM:** George Utermohle *GU*  
Legislative Counsel

This memorandum is in response to your enquiry as to the definition of "watercraft" for purposes of HB 447.

HB 447 adds two subsections to provisions of AS 05.25, relating to use of personal flotation devices (PFD) by persons under 13 years of age. In particular, the bill prohibits the operation of a watercraft unless a person under 13 years of age who is on the watercraft or being towed by the watercraft is wearing a PFD.

For the purposes of HB 447, the applicable definition of "watercraft" can be found at AS 05.25.100(3) which states

"watercraft" means every description of vessel, other than a seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water and devoted to recreational pursuits unless otherwise expressly provided in this chapter; and excepting vessels having a valid marine document issued by the United States or foreign governments;

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

GU:gc  
92-143.glc

Definition:  
"WATERCRAFT"

HB 447 has the backing of...

Department of Natural Resources  
Department of Public Safety  
Municipality of Anchorage, Dept. of Health and  
Human Services  
American Red Cross  
Providence Hospital, Alaska Safe Kids Program  
Humana Hospital, Anchorage  
Alaska Academy of Family Physicians  
Alaska Federal Safety and Health Council  
Alaskan Marine Dealers Association  
Alaska Boating Association  
Knik Canoers & Kyakers  
South East Alaska Regional Health Corporation  
Southern Region Emergency Medical Service Council  
Alaska Marine Safety Education Association  
Norton Sound Health Corporation  
Alaska Federation of Natives  
Rural Alaska Health Education Center  
Maniilaq Medical Center, Kotzebue  
Alaska Area Native Health Service  
Interior Region E.M.S. Council  
Valdez Community Hospital  
Tanana Valley Clinic  
Seattle Children's Hospital  
Mr. Sam Demientieff of the Fairbanks Native  
Association is introducing a resolution in support of  
HB 447 at the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

... as well as many other individuals and  
organizations.

*SUPPORT ROSTER*

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 447 (STATE AFFAIRS)  
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/18/92  
Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES BRUCKMAN, Gruenberg, Mackie, Ivan, Navarre, C.Davis, Ellis, Jacko, Hudson, Donley, Leman, B.Davis, Brown, Ulmer

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the use of a personal flotation device by a person under 13 years  
2 of age."

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

4 \* Section 1, AS 05.25.010 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5 (d) The operator of a watercraft on the water of the state may not transport a person  
6 under 13 years of age onboard ~~the~~ <sup>the operator must open</sup> watercraft unless the person is wearing a United States Coast  
7 Guard approved Type I, Type II, or Type III flotation device. In this subsection, "personal  
8 flotation device" does not include a life belt or life ring.

9 \* Sec. 2. AS 05.25.020 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

10 (b) A person may not operate a watercraft on the water of the state to tow a person under  
11 13 years of age on water skis, a surfboard, or similar device unless the person being towed is  
12 wearing a United States Coast Guard approved Type I, Type II, or Type III personal flotation  
13 device. In this subsection, "personal flotation device" does not include a life belt or life ring.

14 \* Sec. 3. AS 05.25.090 is amended to read:

1           Sec. 05.25.090. PENALTIES. Except as provided in (b) of this section. a [A] person  
2 who violates a [ANY] provision of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor and is punishable by  
3 a fine of not more than \$500, or by imprisonment of not more than six months, or by both, for  
4 each violation unless that person is convicted of a violation of AS 28.35.030, in which case the  
5 sentence shall be in accordance with AS 28.35.030.

6 \* Sec. 4. AS 05.25.090 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

7           (b) A person who violates AS 05.25.010(d) or 05.25.020(b) is guilty of a violation, as  
8 defined in AS 11.81.900, and may be fined up to \$50.

9 \* Sec. 5. AS 22.15.120 is amended to read:

10           Sec. 22.15.120. LIMITATIONS ON PROCEEDINGS WHICH MAGISTRATE MAY  
11 HEAR. A magistrate shall preside only in cases and proceedings under AS 22.15.040, 22.15.100,  
12 and 22.15.110, and as follows:

13           (1) for the recovery of money or damages only when the amount claimed,  
14 exclusive of costs, interest, and attorney fees, does not exceed \$5,000;

15           (2) for the recovery of specific personal property when the value of the property  
16 claimed and the damages for the detention do not exceed \$5,000;

17           (3) for the recovery of a penalty or forfeiture, whether given by statute or arising  
18 out of contract, not exceeding \$5,000;

19           (4) to give judgment without action upon the confession of the defendant for any  
20 of the cases specified in this section, except for a penalty or forfeiture imposed by statute;

21           (5) to give judgment of conviction upon a plea of guilty by the defendant in a  
22 criminal proceeding within the jurisdiction of the district court,

23           (6) to hear, try, and enter judgments in all cases involving misdemeanors, if the  
24 defendant consents in writing that the magistrate may try the case;

25           (7) to hear, try, and enter judgments in all cases involving infractions under  
26 AS 28, violations under AS 05.25 and AS 11, and violations of ordinances of political  
27 subdivisions;

28           (8) for the extradition of fugitives as authorized under AS 12.70.

STATE OF ALASKA  
1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

No. 1  
Bill Version: HB 447  
(H) Publish Date: 3-6-92

Revision Date: February 27, 1992 Department Affected: Natural Resources  
Title: Personal Floatation Device BRU: Park & Recreation Management  
Wearing Requirement for Children Components: Park Management  
Sponsor: Representative Bruckman  
Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_ COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 452

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND&STRUCTURES						
GRANTS.CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
Funding Source:						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
Funding Source:						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of Current year impact: N/A

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

See Attached

Prepared by: Peter J. Panarese Phone: 762-2603  
Division: Parks & Outdoor Recreation Date: 02-27-92

Approved by Commissioner: Harold C. Heinze Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency: Department of Natural Resources

Distribution (by prep):

*FISCAL NOTE*  
*DNR*  
*HB*

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

400 WILLOUGHBY AVENUE  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1796  
PHONE: (907) 465-2400  
FACSIMILE: (907) 586-2754

February 27, 1992

The Honorable Betty Bruckman  
Alaska State House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 116  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: HB 447


Dear Representative Bruckman:

Drowning is one of the leading causes of death in Alaska. Nationally, drownings have decreased 36% over the last ten years. Yet, Alaskans drown at a very high rate: for 1990 it was 28 times the national average. For these reasons, the Department of Natural Resources supports HB 447, requiring that children under 13 wear floatation devices (PFD's) approved by the U.S. Coast Guard.

This legislation will provide motivation for adults to comply with the common sense of insuring their children are wearing approved PFD's.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Harold C. Heinze  
Commissioner

Attachments

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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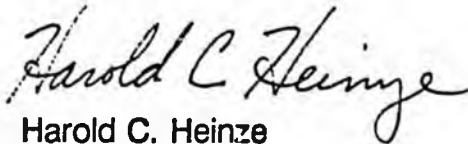
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Harold C. Heinze  
Commissioner

Attachments

## Fiscal Note Attachment

This legislation is needed to promote public recreation safety throughout Alaska by requiring adults to have floatation devices, approved by the U.S. Coast Guard, on children under the age of 13. Park Rangers will enforce the provisions of this bill while attending to their normal duties on patrol in state parks. No additional funds to do so are anticipated.

FISCAL NOTE

No. 2

Bill Version: HB 447

Publish Date: 3-6-92

STATE OF ALASKA  
1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Department Affected: Public Safety  
 Title: An Act requiring a person under 13 BRU: Alaska State Troopers  
to wear a personal flotation device Component: Detachments  
 Sponsor: Representative Bruckman  
 Requestor: House Transportation COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 

	7	9	9
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EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars) (inflation not included)

OPERATING	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE:	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER FUND SOURCE:						
<b>TOTAL</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

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

Estimate of current year impact: \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Enforcement of this legislation would be provided through the normal course of duties, and would be prioritized with other requests for service. Thus, no significant fiscal impact is anticipated.

Prepared By: Lt. Robert L. Clontz Phone: 465-4322  
 Division: Alaska State Troopers Date: 2/28/92  
 Approved by Commissioner: *Richard L. Burton* Richard L. Burton  
 Agency: Department of Public Safety Date: 2/28/92

*Fiscal Note*

*DPS*

HB

463

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

4-24-92

Rules

(7)  
Date Referred: April 16, 1992

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 4/24/92

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered:

HB 463

HOUSE BILL NO. 463

VOTER REGISTRATION/PUBLIC ASST. APPLICANT

"An Act requiring the Department of Health and Social Services to provide voter registration information to a person seeking public assistance."

RECOMMENDATIONS:  
 be replaced with CSHB463 (STA)  the same title  
 a new title  
 have attached amendments(s)  
 do pass  
 do not pass  
 no recommendations  
 individual recommendations  
 additional referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

fiscal impact \_\_\_\_\_

fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

zero fiscal note State Affairs Code for DHSIS

zero fiscal note(s) Gov Elections 4/16/92

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Eugene A. Kubera</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<i>Tom Miller</i> <small>MOYER</small>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<i>David Prosser</i> <small>CHUGOFF</small>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<i>Tom Brunner</i> <small>BRUNERMAN</small>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<i>Sam Baker</i> <small>BAKER</small>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<i>Max Stuenkel</i> <small>GILBERT</small>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

*Eugene A. Kubera*  
CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

APR 27 1992

BILL NO. HB 463

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Department Affected: Health & Social Services

Title: An Act Requiring the Department BRU: Public Assistance Administration

of H&SS to provide voter registration info. Component: Eligibility Determination

Sponsor: B. Davis

Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_ COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 

0	2	3	6
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EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
---------	---	---	---	---	---	---

REVENUE FUND SOURCE:	0	0	0	0	0	0
----------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER FUND SOURCE:	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

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

Estimate of current year impact:

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.) Distribution and processing voter registration forms in Division of Public Assistance offices will have a workload impact. It increases administrative complexity by adding an additional process and responsibility of unrelated work. Time required would impinge on an already excessive workload. This is a group that currently work overtime and has a backlog of applications and cases; adding this voter registration work results in either fewer public assistance services or higher error rates.

Prepared by: Jan L. Hansen, Director Phone: 465-3347

Division: Public Assistance Date: 4/24/92

Approved by Commissioner: Theodore A. Mala, MD, MPH

Agency: Department of Health & Social Services Date: 4/24/92

Distribution (by Preparer: Leg. Fin., Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB/DBR, Gov. Legis. Ofc., & Impacted Agency(ies))

FISCAL - HSS - 0

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

3111 C STREET, SUITE 508  
ANCHORAGE AK 99503  
(907) 561-2039

STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU AK 99801-1182  
(907) 465-3875/4894



VICE CHAIR  
HEALTH, EDUCATION  
& SOCIAL SERVICES

COMMUNITY AND  
REGIONAL AFFAIRS

INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
AND TOURISM

CHAIR  
CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

## REPRESENTATIVE BETTYE DAVIS

DISTRICT 14 SEAT B • EAST ANCHORAGE • MULDOON

### S P O N S O R   S T A T E M E N T

I appreciate the committee members hearing CSHB 463 (State Affairs).

CSHB 463, "requires the Department of Health and Social Services to provide voter registration information to a person seeking public assistance."

According to U.S. Census eighty-six percent of all Americans who are registered to vote voted in the 1988 election, but more than 70 million eligible Americans are not registered.

Alaska voter registration laws are found in the election code (AS 15.07). These provisions provide for mail-in registration. Also, they authorize a form of "motor-voter" registration, but there is no other agency-based registration program. All employees of the division of motor vehicles who work at the windows issuing driver's licenses are also deputized registrars of the division of elections. There are signs in the building notifying applicants for driver's licenses that they may also register to vote on the premises.

CSHB 463 set up a similar program at the Department of Health and Social Services. Studies show that all citizens gain from the increased opportunities to register when a variety of agencies have this service. In some states, people may register at libraries when they apply for deer hunting licenses, or complete medical assistance forms. Proportionately, however, low-income citizens have the most to gain from agency-based voter registration. These groups are more likely to visit places such as public assistance offices, where registration efforts can be most effective. This demographic group is also among the least likely to have utilized motor-voter registration.

The bottom line is that registering to vote should be as convenient as possible for our citizens. We must remember that the purpose of the election process is not to test the fortitude and determination of the voter, but to discern the will of the majority.

Voting is a fundamental right. Lets do our part in making the process easier for all.





JOHN B. COGHILL  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

STATE OF ALASKA

P. O. BOX AA

JUNEAU 99811-0111

(907) 465-2520

March 16, 1992

Representative Bettye Davis  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Davis:

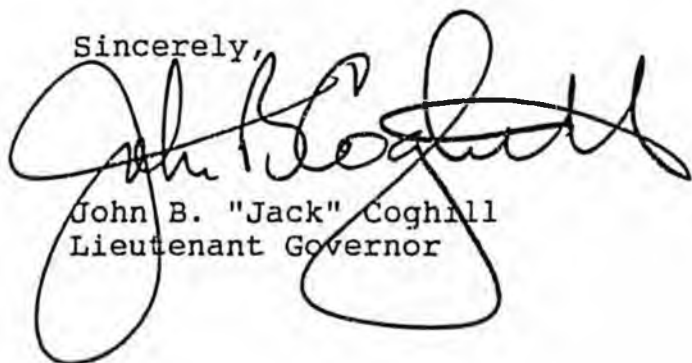
I would like to express my support of House Bill 463, " An Act requiring the Department of Health and Social Services to provide voter registration information to a person seeking public assistance."

The premise from which this legislation is based is innovative, but grounded in the basic principle that everyone should exercise their right to vote. I believe that every Alaskan deserves an opportunity to access the voter registration process. Any way we can help take the process to the people is a positive step towards encouraging all Alaskans to take pride in themselves and voice their opinions at the ballot box.

I understand that your proposal is similar to the Motor Voter concept where Alaskans can obtain voter registration forms at the Department of Motor Vehicles. I have supported this program and I support your legislation which would reach yet another group of Alaskans; those who presently need to apply for services administered through the Department of Health and Social Services and may not own a car or who otherwise might not realize how easy it is to register to vote.

Representative Davis, I hope your colleagues in the Legislature will join me in enthusiastically supporting your endeavor. If you have any further questions, or if I can be of assistance in any way, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



John B. "Jack" Coghill  
Lieutenant Governor

SUPPORT - LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF ALASKA

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS  
P.O. BOX AF  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0105  
PHONE (907) 465-4611

March 16, 1992

Representative Bettye Davis  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Davis:

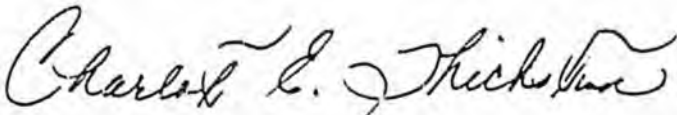
The Division of Elections would like to express its support of House Bill 463, " An Act requiring the Department of Health and Social Services to provide voter registration information to a person seeking public assistance."

It is encouraging to see the consideration given this innovative concept. This legislation, when passed, would enable those Alaskans who for one reason or another might not have the opportunity to access the voter registration process.

While similar to the Motor Voter concept where Alaskans can obtain voter registration forms at the Department of Motor Vehicles, this legislation would reach yet another group of Alaskans; a group whose members may not own a car or who otherwise may not have realized how easy it is to register to vote.

Representative Davis, the Division of Elections supports your efforts to have voter registration forms available to state residents who apply to the Department of Health and Social Services for general relief, Medicaid, aid to families with dependent children, adult public assistance, or food stamps. If you have any further questions, or if I can be of assistance in any way, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



Charlot E. Thickstun  
Director

HCR

7

STATE OF ALASKA  
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Department Affected: Education  
Title: Proclaiming 1991 to be the Bill BRU: K-12 Support  
of Rights Bicentennial Year Component: Foundation  
Sponsor: M. A. Miller  
Requestor: House Judiciary COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 

	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>
--	----------	----------	----------

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

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

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

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year impact: None

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Prepared By: Mary Hakala Phone: 465-2800  
Division: Commissioner's Office Date: 3/7/91  
Approved by Commissioner: Steve Holt, Acting Commissioner  
Agency: Education Date: 3/7/91

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

ROBERT C. ELY  
JOHN E. HAVELOCK

LAW OFFICES  
**ELY & HAVELOCK**  
608 WEST FOURTH AVENUE, SUITE 21  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

TELEPHONE  
AREA CODE 907  
276-1916  
FACSIMILE  
(907) 258-9053

March 6, 1991

Rep. M.A. Miller and  
Judiciary Committee  
Alaska State House of Representatives  
Juneau, Alaska

RE: HCR No. 7; Bill of Rights Bicentennial

Dear Friends,

One report after another, confirming the crisis in American education, has stressed the central role, in the success of the American enterprise, of instruction in civics. The threat posed to our future by the failure of new generations to understand fundamental principles is grave.

I would hope that instruction in the meaning of the Bill of Rights is already underway in all our schools, for every class, every year. However, the bicentennial year poses a special opportunity to remind all, young and old, of the central nature of the concept of individual rights to our democracy.

Too many Americans equate democracy only with majority rule, yet the American Republic was founded on the principle that minorities of opinion and interest within a majority must have their rights respected as a restraint on majoritarian absolutism. Constitutionalism and the Bill of Rights are the prime virtues of the American system.

I urge your support for HCR 7.

Sincerely,



John Havelock  
(Chair, Commission to Celebrate the U.S. Constitution.)

HCR

10

FISCAL NOTE

No. 1

STATE OF ALASKA  
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version: HCR 10

(H) Publish Date: 3/29/91

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Department Affected: Legislative Affairs Agency  
Title: Alaska Garden Week BRU: \_\_\_\_\_  
Component: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor: Rep. Bill Hudson  
Requestor: House State Affairs Committee COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 

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Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
PERSONAL SERVICES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

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

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS: N/A

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year impact: \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Prepared By: House State Affairs Committee Phone: 465-4859

Division: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: March 26, 1991

Approved by Commissioner: Representative Gene Kubina, Chair *Gene Kubina*

Agency: House State Affairs Committee Date: March 26, 1991

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Services & Impacted Agency(ies).



# Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE BILL HUDSON

P.O. Box V  
Juneau, Alaska  
99811  
(907)465-3744 or 4991

April 18, 1991

## COMMITTEES

CHAIR  
House Special Committee  
on Oil & Gas  
MEMBER  
Resources  
Transportation  
International Trade & Tourism

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE:  
Department of Transportation  
and Public Facilities

Senator Pat Rodey,  
Chair  
Senate State Affairs Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Senator Rodey:

HCR 10, "Declaring June 2 - 8 to be Alaska Garden Week," was referred to the Senate State Affairs Committee on April 17, 1991, after passing the House with no opposition on Monday, April 15.

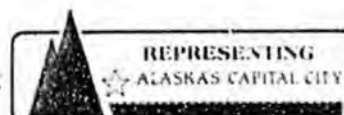
For your convenient reference, I am enclosing a copy of HCR 10, together with a print out of the legislative activity from BASIS. Additionally, I am attaching a copy of the position paper prepared by the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service.

HCR 10 seeks to establish the week of June 2 - 8 as Alaska Garden Week. This date coincides with the National Garden Association's garden week.

While this resolution has absolutely no fiscal impact, the gardening efforts in Alaska result in an approximate 20 million dollar business in our state.

Gardening activities instill a heightened awareness of the environment, ground water flow, conservation, pollution control, and nature in general.

While providing beauty and thus enhancing the tourism efforts in Alaska, it also fosters and preserves a spirit of independence and individual initiative, resulting in a greater respect for the care of our neighborhoods and communities, and promotes individual, community and state pride.



Your favorable consideration to schedule this resolution for a hearing in the Senate State Affairs Committee at the earliest possible date will be very much appreciated. If you have questions or need additional information, please call me or my staff, Landa Holtan, at 3744.

Respectfully,



Bill Hudson

BH:lh



# COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

## UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

9112 Mendenhall Mall Road  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-7112  
(907) 586-7102

### COMMENTS ON HCR#10 ALASKA GARDEN WEEK JUNE 2-8

Alaska's earliest pioneers discovered that our unique Alaska climate was excellent for growing many vegetables and flowers. A heritage of gardening has passed from our pioneers to today's urban and rural residents. Naming the week of June 2-8, Alaska Garden Week is in keeping with that earliest pioneer tradition.

Across the state, millions of dollars will be spent to begin beautifying homes, businesses, towns, and cities. Home gardening is second to stamp collecting as Americans favorite hobby. The greenhouse industry in Alaska is its largest single agricultural sector. The vast majority of the greenhouse business involves the propagation of flowers, trees, shrubs, and vegetables to be planted by home gardeners. Cut flowers and flower baskets for home and office beautification make up another large part of the industry.

Alaskan's are proud of their gardens. Cities are justifiably proud of their parks, greenbelts, hanging baskets, flower boxes and barrels. While I support HCR # 10, I would urge this committee create a statute to create a permanent Alaska Garden Week the first week of June each year.

Alaska gardeners are a hardy breed. They are as persevering as those who carved homes and cities out of wilderness. Creating a permanent special week to commemorate these hardy individuals is fitting and appropriate.

COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY Jim Douglas Resource Development and Youth Agent  
Cooperative Extension Service  
9112 Mendenhall Mall Rd  
Juneau, AK 99801



HCR

13

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Bill Version: HCR-13  
 (H) Publish Date: 3/21/91

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Department Affected: LAA  
 Title: Twenty-fifth Annual Boy's State BRU: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Component: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor: Rep. Kubina  
 Requestor: House State Affairs Committee COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 

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Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
PERSONAL SERVICES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
<b>CAPITAL</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
<b>REVENUE</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
<b>TOTAL</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS: N/A

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year impact: \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Prepared By: House State Affairs Committee Phone: 465-4859  
 Division: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 3-18-91  
 Approved by Commissioner: Representative Gene Kubina, Chair  
 Agency: House State Affairs Committee Date: 3-18-91

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

HCPR

14

STATE OF ALASKA  
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

No. 1  
Bill Version: HCR 14  
(H) Publish Date: 3/20/91

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Department Affected: LAA  
Title: Twenty-third Annual Girl's State BRU: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor: Rep. C. Davis Component: \_\_\_\_\_  
Requestor: House State Affairs Committee COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 

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Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
PERSONAL SERVICES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS: N/A

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year impact: \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Prepared By: House State Affairs Committee Phone: 465-4859  
Division: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 3-18-91  
Approved by Commissioner: Representative Gene Kubina, Chair  
Agency: House State Affairs Committee Date: 3-18-91

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

HCR

43

FISCAL NOTE

No. 1

Bill Version: HCR 43

(H) Publish Date: 2/10/92

STATE OF ALASKA  
1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Department Affected: Legislative Affairs Agency

Title: Twenty-Fourth Annual Girls' State BRU: \_\_\_\_\_

Component: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor: Rep. C. Davis

Requestor: House State Affairs Committee COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 

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EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE						
FUND SOURCE:						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
FUND SOURCE:						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS: N/A

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year impact: \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Prepared By: House State Affairs Committee Phone: 465-4859

Division: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 2-7-92

Approved by Commissioner: Representative Gene Kubina, Chairman

Agency: House State Affairs Committee Date: 2-7-92

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## ELECTIVE DISTRICT 1

HYDER  
KETCHIKAN  
KUPREANOF  
MEYERS CHUCK  
PETERSBURG  
SAXMAN  
WRANGELL

## IN KETCHIKAN

352 FRONT ST.  
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901  
PHONE 225-9449

## DURING SESSION

P.O. BOX V  
STATE CAPITOL BUILDING  
JUNEAU, AK 99811  
PHONE 465-3424

**Representative Cheri L. Davis**

## SPONSOR STATEMENT HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 43

Girls' State is an organization that has existed in our state for 24 years. It provides young women the opportunity to experience the workings of government first hand. It is truly an experience that they won't forget.

This year's Girls' State will be held at the University of Alaska Fairbanks under the sponsorship the American Legion Auxiliary and other cooperating organizations.

This is an exceptional program that deserves the recognition of the Alaska State Legislature.

Thank you.

---

HCPR

44



# Alaska State Legislature



Representative Eugene Kubina

Chairman  
State Affairs  
Committee

Legislative Council

Transportation  
Committee

During Session:  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
(907) 465-4859

During Interim:  
P.O. Box 2463  
Valdez, Alaska 99686  
(907) 835-2111

## SPONSOR STATEMENT

As an organization that has existed for over a quarter of a century, providing Alaska's boys with a learning experience about how our form of government functions, Alaska Boy's State has become an institution that deserves the recognition of the Alaska State Legislature.

This annual program, to be held in 1992 at the All Elk's Youth Camp in Palmer, combines a mixture of volunteer effort and talent to create a truly remarkable learning experience for many youngsters.

That is why, as the Sponsor for this bill, I ask this Committee to pass this bill.

— DISTRICT SIX —

• Chenega Bay • Chitina • Cooper Landing • Cordova • Hope • Moose Pass • Seward • Tatitlek • Valdez • Whittier •



# Alaska State Legislature



Representative Eugene Kubina

Chairman  
State Affairs  
Committee  

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Legislative Council  

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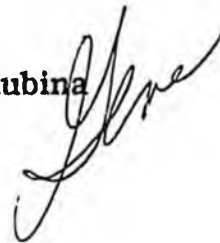
Transportation  
Committee

During Session:  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
(907) 465-4859

During Interim:  
P.O. Box 2463  
Valdez, Alaska 99686  
(907) 835-2111

## Memo

**To:** Senator Pat Rodey, Chairman  
Senate State Affairs Committee

**From:** Representative Gene Kubina 

**Date:** 20 February 1992

**Re.:** HCR 44; Relating to the 26th Boy's State

---

I would appreciate your scheduling HCR 44 for a hearing of your committee at the earliest possible date.

If there is anything I or my staff can do to assist, please don't hesitate to contact me.

— DISTRICT SIX —

• Chenega Bay • Chitina • Cooper Landing • Cordova • Hope • Moose Pass • Seward • Tatitlek • Valdez • Whittier •

HCPR

46

STATE OF ALASKA  
1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HCR 46

Revision Date: February 11, 1992 Department Affected: None  
Title: Declaring April 24, 25, and 26 as BRU: None  
Disabled American Veterans Days Component: None  
Sponsor: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs  
Requestor: House State Affairs Committee COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 

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EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
PERSONAL SERVICES	0					
TRAVEL	0					
CONTRACTUAL	0					
SUPPLIES	0					
EQUIPMENT	0					
LAND & STRUCTURES	0					
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0					
MISCELLANEOUS	0					
TOTAL OPERATING	0					

CAPITAL	0					
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REVENUE	0					
FUND SOURCE:	0					

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0					
FEDERAL FUNDS	0					
OTHER FUND SOURCE:	0					
TOTAL	0					

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0					
PART-TIME	0					
TEMPORARY	0					

Estimate of current year impact: 0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Prepared By: Thomas W. Wright Committee Staff Phone: 465-4527  
Division: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs Date: February 11, 1992  
Approved by Commissioner: Representative Ivan M. Ivan, Chair  
Agency: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs Date: February 11, 1992

# Alaska State Legislature

## House of Representatives

Rep. Ivan, Chair  
Rep. Davidson  
Rep. Foster  
Rep. Gonzales  
Rep. Gruenberg  
Rep. M.W. Miller  
Rep. Parnell



State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
(907) 465-4527

### Special Committee on Military & Veterans Affairs

#### SUMMARY - CS FOR HCR 46 (STA)

This resolution requests the Legislature to declare April 24, 25 and 26, 1992, as Disabled American Veterans Day in Alaska. These are the dates the D.A.V. is holding its state convention in Anchorage.

HCR 46 was introduced by the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs as a request of the Alaska Disabled American Veterans organization.

# Alaska State Legislature

## House of Representatives

Rep. Ivan, Chair  
Rep. Davidson  
Rep. Foster  
Rep. Gonzales  
Rep. Gruenberg  
Rep. M.W. Miller  
Rep. Parnell




State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
(907) 465-1527

### Special Committee on Military & Veterans Affairs

#### M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Senator Pat Rodey, Chair  
Senate State Affairs Committee

FROM: Representative Ivan M. Ivan, Chair   
House Special Committee on Military and  
Veterans Affairs

DATE: February 21, 1992

RE: Request for Hearing - CS for HCR 46 (STA)

---

Please consider this request to schedule CS for HCR 46 (STA) at your earliest possible convenience.

This resolution requests the Legislature to declare April 24, 25 and 26, 1992, as Disabled American Veterans Days in Alaska.

HCR 46 was introduced by the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs by request from the Alaska Disabled American Veterans organization.

Thank you for considering this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Tom Wright, committee staff, if you need further information or have any questions.

IMI:tw

Attachments

HJR

8



# Alaska State Legislature

## SENATE

Official Business

P.O. Box V  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

February 6, 1991

To: Members, Senate State Affairs

From: Senator Pat Rodey  
Chair, Senate State Affairs

Subj: CSHJR 8 (SA) am - Relating to the Persian Gulf conflict and Alaskans serving in the Persian Gulf.

The measure before you is the result of combining HJR-8 (Barnes), and HJR-12 (Brown).

HJR-8, outlined greater detail about the nature of events leading up the Gulf conflict, the advent of the Allied response, lends support specifically to President of U.S., Allied leaders/forces, members of Congress, United Nations, and military personnel for efforts in conflict and expresses concern for well-being of all Allied personnel and their safe return home.

HJR-12, focuses more on Alaskans serving with less discussion of events leading up to conflict. Urges President and Congress to seek peaceful resolution of conflict.

CSHJR-8 (SA) am, combines both HJR-8 and 12, urges end to conflict, safe return for all Allied personnel and request LAA to send following message to all Alaskans serving in Gulf:

*The members of the Alaska Legislature want you to know that you are in our prayers. We commend your bravery and dedication. We wish you a safe and speedy return home.*

As of today it is estimated that at least 150 Alaskans are serving with U.S. military forces in the Persian Gulf conflict.



OFFICIAL BUSINESS

# Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE  
**RAMONA L. BARNES**  
DISTRICT 14

ANCHORAGE  
2230 PAXSON  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99504  
(907) 337-7737  
(907) 561-2036  
BOX V  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811  
(907) 465-3436

January 27, 1991

## SPONSOR STATEMENT

### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 8

This resolution is offered as a statement of support, not only for the President of the United States and other leaders of the Allied Forces, but more importantly for the men and women of the military forces serving in the Persian Gulf. It is important to the morale of our troops that they know their fellow Americans appreciate their bravery and dedication.

According to a spokesperson from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, there are 245,000 personnel from the Allied Forces plus 475,000 American military personnel serving in the Persian Gulf as of January 25th. Accurate figures are not readily available regarding the number of Alaskans currently on duty serving in the Gulf. It appears that to date, Alaska has been most fortunate in having most of her sons and daughters left at home. There are, however, 7 Alaskan Naval reservists who have been activated for service in the Persian Gulf. I have been told that there are Army medical corps reservists from Alaska who have also been activated but I cannot substantiate that at this time.

Additionally, Alaska is home to several thousand active duty military personnel and their families who have made and continue to make significant contributions to our state. These active duty personnel are all subject to duty in the Persian Gulf. It is important to indicate to those men and women serving in operation "Desert Storm" and all military personnel that Alaska supports their efforts.

I believe that all Alaskans were praying for a peaceful resolution to the Middle East crisis. However, exhausting diplomatic efforts failed to resolve the issue. To debate whether we should have launched the attack when we did would serve no purpose at this time. The fact is that we are at war with Iraq. War is never easy and many personal sacrifices will be made. Let us, members of the Alaska Legislature, make Alaska a forerunner in publicly acknowledging support for the men and women of our military services who will be making those sacrifices.

SPONSOR STATEMENT



Official Business

# Alaska State Legislature

P.O. Box V  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

TO: Representative Gene Kubina  
Chair, House State Affairs Committee

FROM: Representative Kay Brown

DATE: January 29, 1991

RE: Persian Gulf Resolution

I would like to inform the State Affairs Committee of my support for the proposed CS for HJR 8 (State Affairs). The committee substitute combines Rep. Barnes' resolution regarding the Persian Gulf conflict with HJR 12, which I sponsored.

I am particularly interested in the Resolved clause that would send a message from legislators to Alaskans serving in the Persian Gulf. It is my understanding that the military does not maintain a master list of Alaskans serving in the Persian Gulf. However, my staff has been in contact with support groups and parents from Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau who are compiling lists of names and addresses. They have assured us that they will furnish their lists at the legislature's request. In addition, we may want to inform Alaskans via the media that messages will be sent and encourage families to provide names of Alaskans serving in the Persian Gulf to the Legislative Affairs Agency.

It appears that these messages can be sent free of charge. Alascom sends free fax messages to military personnel in the Persian Gulf. And Raini Forrester of Cooper Landing is participating in a national network of computer users that is sending free messages to our troops. My staff reports that she is willing to help relay the legislature's message.

Thank you for your consideration.

REP. BROWN STATEMENT

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Honorable representatives of this committee. I am here to testify in opposition to HJR8, introduced by Rep. Barnes, and in favor of HJR12, by Rep. Brown.

Despite Pres. Bush's declaration that the Gulf War is a "noble cause," Americans remain deeply divided over the propriety of this engagement. When the Senate gave Mr. Bush the power to attack Iraq without further consultation, they did so by the extremely narrow margin of 52 ayes to 47 nays, reflecting the division of their constituents. In early January, columnist Mike Royko reported that his mail was running about nine to one against launching a war, even after months of incessant pro-war propaganda from most of the major media outlets. Indeed, several members of congress, in the course of the debate on the resolution to authorize force, stated that they were voting in favor primarily to convince Saddam Hussein that the U.S. was serious, in the hope that a war would then turn out not to be necessary.

Yet only one day after the artificially concocted deadline of Jan. 15, less than a week after the Congressional debate, and a mere five months after the imposition of sanctions, Mr. Bush launched his midnight air raids, and the defensive Shield was transformed into an offensive Sword. Why this rush to war? After all, CIA Director William Webster testified to Congress in December that the sanctions had been up to that time approximately 97 percent effective. And sanctions do take time. During the twentieth century, sanctions have been imposed on recalcitrant states by other states a total of over a hundred times. The average length of time for the sanctions to have the desired effect in these cases was between one and two years. Are Iraqi civilians dying, and our soldiers risking death, because an impatient George Bush "had it" with Saddam Hussein?

There are plentiful indications of the artificiality of the Jan. 15th deadline. It was agreed to by the United Nations Security Council, an organization to which the U.S. paid only scant and contemptuous attention in the past, after a great deal of administration arm-twisting, threats and bribery, as a compromise to the earlier U.S. demand for a New Year's deadline.

Nor did Iraq refuse all offers of negotiations. Beginning early in August, within two weeks of the invasion, Iraq floated the first of a series of peace feelers to the West. This was not the attempted "linkage" that proposed that Israel, Syria and Turkey be held to the same standards of conduct as Iraq, which later received such a hostile reception as tantamount to "rewarding aggression," a motive conspicuously absent of mention when discussing the aforementioned cases.

No, this first Iraqi proposal, presented Aug. 23 but unreported by our faithful media, was an offer to withdraw from Kuwait and release all hostages in return for guaranteed access to the Gulf through cession of two small uninhabited islands, and for full control of the Rumallah oilfield, the original source of the dispute with Kuwait, which lies in any case 95 percent under Iraqi territory. Access to the Gulf has been an Iraqi ambition ever since the British mandate deliberately drew up the boundaries of the Protectorate to exclude such access.

The answer of the White House was to ridicule the offer when it was made public on Aug. 29; the media, when it bothered to report the initiative at all, followed suit. Of course, the Iraqis may indeed have been playing games, although an administration official who specializes in Middle Eastern affairs felt it was "serious" and "negotiable," according to the *New York Newsday*, but we'll never know, as no response was forthcoming. Without drawing further and possibly unwarranted conclusions, one can at least say the failure of diplomacy was mutual.

The pros and cons of different dates to start the war was even the subject of detailed accounts in *Time* and *Newsweek* during the Fall. Why the unseemly rush to war? One answer

is offered in an intriguing cover article in this week's *Nation* on the economic incentives for the war: not just the swallowing of the peace dividend, or the diversion of attention from the Savings and Loan scandal, or the testing of new weapons, or even control of the Middle Eastern spigot, though all of these no doubt have a part to play; but the continued floating of the recession-wracked, deficit-ridden U.S. economy through Saudi and Gulf petrodollars: the U.S. Army as Mercenaries for Hire. Are we indeed going to Mr. Bush's "noble war" for jobs, as Secretary of State Baker suggested last Fall? Is propping up the banks and the exchange rate of the dollar, and obtaining economic leverage over our post-Cold War rivals Japan and the European Economic Community, worth the lives of our brothers, sisters, lovers and friends?

Before I go any further, I'd like to make two things clear. The first ought to go without saying, but given the rightwing propensity to equate dissent with treason and support of the enemy--there's a t-shirt for sale in the Nugget Mall that reads "Reward the Protestors--Send them to Kuwait"--I will state it for the record. I do not, and the peace movement does not, consider the soldiers to be the villains in this war. They are victims just as the Kuwaiti citizens and the Iraqi civilians and troops. The best support we can give them is to urge ceasefire and peace; to bring them home alive, rather than in body bags, or "human remains pouches," as the Pentagon prefers to call them in its sanitized and bloodless prose.

The second point that needs to be stressed is that I, too, deplore the invasion and annexation of Kuwait by Iraq. But unlike our statesmen, I also deplore the invasion and annexation of the northern third of Cyprus by our ally Turkey, supported to the tune of \$500 million a year by our country; the invasion and annexation of East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, and the invasion and occupation of southern Lebanon, the Gaza strip, and the West Bank by our close ally Israel, the single largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid; the invasion and annexation of the Sahel, or Sahara Arab Democratic Republic, by the torture state of Morocco (as Amnesty International called it), now a vaunted ally against the new Hitler of the Middle East; the invasion and occupation of eastern Lebanon by Syria, now a "reformed" terror state thanks to its role as a co-belligerent against its ancient enemy Iraq, on whom it has territorial designs of its own; the invasion and annexation of East Timor, and the genocidal butchery of one third of its population, by the regime we helped bring to power in Indonesia at the cost of up to one and a half million lives; and last but not least, our own invasion of Grenada, terror bombing of Tripoli, and takeover of Panama during the era of "America--standing tall." For that matter, I deplore the previous Iraqi invasion of other people's territory, which was directed against Iran in 1980, and which the Reagan/Bush administration tacitly supported.

The point I am making is that while Iraqi atrocities against Kuwaiti civilians and other nefarious activities cannot be excused, they are hardly of a fundamentally different character from those that we routinely condone and dismiss when carried out by our friends and allies, and indeed, by dictators who are maintained in power solely by our tax moneys, our training, and our troops. As the *New Yorker* put it last Oct. 15, if we try Hussein for crimes against humanity, by the same standards, many of the regimes we supported in Central America in the Eighties, not to mention those in our government who directed the policies of support, would also be in the dock.

Iraq itself, pre-invasion, is not absent from this list of "our" state terrorists. Aside from our pronounced "tilt" in Iraq's direction during the war with Iran, by 1990 the U.S. had become Iraq's largest trading partner. Congressman Henry Gonzales of Texas has charged that \$3 billion in letters of credit were extended to Iraq by one Atlanta-based

bank alone, and that the deal included armaments as well as, quite possibly, chemical weapons. This money helped finance the invasion of Kuwait, as Gonzales pointed out. In 1989, Iraq received \$1 billion in loan assurances, second in this regard only to Mexico.

This was the culmination of a long and mutually profitable relationship; ever since 1982 Iraq has been one of the largest importers of U.S. rice and wheat (a total of \$5.5 billion worth), financing a good deal of that through federally guaranteed loans. By 1987, 40 percent of Iraq's food was imported from the U.S. Over the years, the federally guaranteed loans freed up moneys for armaments for the war with Iran; during the Eighties, Iraq purchased \$46.8 billion worth of arms, more by far than any other Third World country.

Even when Iraq diverted helicopters purchased from the U.S. to military purposes in blatant violation of explicit promises, the administration hardly blinked. In 1988, when Congress wanted to restrict trade with Iraq due to egregious human rights violations, the Reagan administration lobbied successfully to defeat the restrictions. And when the human rights office of the State Department compiled a critical report against Iraq last Spring, the Bush administration, fresh from having lifted a formal ban on loans to Iraq, pressured the office to tone down the report in the interest of increased U.S. influence and better relations.

In fact, the Iraqi invasion itself followed closely after U.S. Ambassador April Glaspie indicated clearly at a meeting with Saddam that the U.S. had no intrinsic objection to whatever means Iraq used to settle its disputes with Kuwait. This reassurance came in response to Saddam's virtual announcement of his plans, saying that Kuwait was threatening Iraq's lifeblood, and that no country had a right to threaten another with economic extinction. Two days before the invasion, a State Department official testified before Congress that the U.S. was not committed to defend Kuwait in the event of an invasion, although by that time, according to the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, the CIA not only knew of the invasion plan, but even correctly guessed the day. The State Department then forbade the Agency to warn the Kuwaiti government or people, and forced the cancellation of a Voice of America broadcast on the Iraqi threat.

Meanwhile, on July 27, Gen. Norman Schwartzkopf successfully carried out a command exercise for 350 of his staff officers based on the premise of one Middle Eastern country invading another and threatening U.S. interests. We need to ask, did George Bush invite the invasion of Kuwait, whether in fulfillment of short-term political objectives, geopolitical strategems, or the long-coveted permanent U.S. bases in the Middle East? Or, as one Middle East diplomat was quoted, if Saddam didn't exist, would Bush have had to invent him?

There are many unanswered and provocative questions about the origins of the crisis, and good reasons for doubting that our media, spoon-fed by the Pentagon, according to their own complaints, are presenting us with anything like the full story. The Barnes resolution, with its blanket and advance approval for whatever the Bush administration may be planning, is not a real gesture of support for our troops, but only for our government, right or wrong. I believe that Rep. Brown's resolution, a neutral statement that praises our people in uniform and at the same time urges Pres. Bush and the Congress to seek peaceful resolution of the Gulf conflict, much better expresses the feelings of most Alaskans. Thank you.

Testimony before the House State Affairs Committee on 1/30/91  
concerning HJR 8 and HJR 12

Judy Brakel  
440 E. 1st St.  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
586-2606

For many Americans the decision to go to war was a mistake, painful and disheartening. Many do not see war as an acceptable means of settling disputes. Others see war as sometimes acceptable, but not when there are alternatives, for instance the alternative of an international embargo. And not when there is such a lack of proportion between the causes for which the war is fought and the negative consequences to people and to the environment, consequences which will transcend who wins and who loses.

We cannot predict the future of this war, but in only two weeks we have had massive bombing of Iraq and Kuwait, surely causing terrible human suffering, and an oil spill fifteen times the size of the Exxon Valdez spill. This in a region already environmentally degraded before the war began.

But we already knew that modern weapons are too powerful, and that we must find other solutions to conflicts. In this case, another solution was begun. The most comprehensive economic embargo in history was marshalled against Iraq. Concerning that, here are excerpts from Senate majority leader George Mitchell's speech to Congress on Jan. 10th: "It is significant that even the administration cannot and does not say that the policy of sanctions has failed." "There has been no clear rationale, no convincing explanation, for shifting American policy from one of sanctions to one of war."

The administration says that every attempt was made to avert the war, but there is much information to the contrary.

People have reason to oppose this war on moral grounds and on practical grounds. They also have reasons for skepticism. We have seen a series of enemies - Khomeini, Khadafi, the Sandinistas, Noriega - each for a short time personifying the threat to America and then disappearing from view. We were surprised last year to learn that our troops had attacked Panama, without consulting Congress nor yet the United Nations. In fact the United Nations condemned our attack. In a familiar scenario, not unlike that in the Middle East, we were there to punish a dictator whom we ourselves had built up with arms and aid but who had turned uncooperative.

Skeptics wonder why the Secretary of State, a week before the invasion of Kuwait and in the face of Hussein's clear warnings of his intentions, instructed our ambassador to speak as she did: "We have no opinion on the Arab-Arab conflicts, like your border dispute with Kuwait ..... the issue is not associated with America."\*

Now there is a rush to support the war. But I ask that our legislators do not presume to line up all Alaskans in "solumn support" of the President on this matter.

---

\* Harpers Magazine, Jan. 1991, p.74

What do Alaskans think? There have been no polls, but the Fairbanks News-Miner, on Dec. 13, reported that a spokesman for Senator Murkowski's Washington office said letters were pouring in. Nearly 95% of the letters from Alaskans received by the Senator insisted that a peaceful solution be found in the Gulf. He said "people are definitely supportive of Saudi Arabia, but they want a negotiated settlement and no U.S. attack. People are registering a strong objection to force."\*

I can report something of what has happened in Juneau. People who have spoken or written in opposition to the choice of war include our mayor, two of our legislative representatives, even the newspaper editor. This fall a local movement organized to oppose going to war. This movement includes people who have sons and husbands serving in the Gulf, religious leaders, Vietnam veterans and lots of others.

After the war started we had to deal with the question of how we could support our troops, as people whom we care deeply about, and at the same time oppose the war. At a public gathering on Jan. 21st many intensely thoughtful speakers addressed that question. We realized that we could never be sure our opposition to the war would not, at some point, give encouragement to the enemy, but that the wellbeing of our troops is best served by calling for a cease-fire, especially before the ground war begins. A young wife read a letter from her husband stationed in the Gulf. He seems highly skeptical of the wisdom of our President in making war. Someone read a speech given in 1812 by William Ellery Channing. An excerpt:

"The cry has been that war has been declared, and all opposition should therefore be hushed. A sentiment more unworthy of a free nation can hardly be propagated. If this doctrine be admitted, rulers have only to declare war and they are screened at once from scrutiny."

In conclusion, I ask that if you pass a resolution purporting to speak for the people of Alaska, it will say something that can be supported by people who have sincere and heartfelt beliefs on both sides of the issue of war. I think we can all agree in our concern for the troops and in our hopes for their safe and speedy return.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

---

\* Fairbanks News-Miner, 12/13/91, p. 1

592 Seatter Street  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

January 29, 1991

Representative Gene Kubina, Chair  
State Affairs Committee  
Alaska House of Representatives  
Juneau, Alaska

Committee Members:

*Committed Substitute for  
HJR 8*

I would like to speak briefly on two resolutions before the committee, HJR 8 and HJR 12 regarding the Persian Gulf war.

I urge you to consult your consciences as you consider these resolutions, which will be made in the name of all Alaskans. I'm sure you are well aware that there are a great many Alaskans who have done everything they were able to urge our leaders to find non-military solutions, and whose consciences prevent them from participating in war.

HJR 8 assumes a consensus in support of the goals and purposes of this war which does not exist in Alaska.

There is no virtue in blindly following a presidential call to victory at all costs. This is not the time for fanning the flames of war by demonizing the forces we have chosen to do battle with and glorifying the job our young military people are being ordered to undertake. The human and environmental consequences are too grave. HJR 8 is not the message we should be sending now. I believe the best way to show support for all the men and women whose lives are at stake in this combat is to call for their return to their homes.

HJR 12 comes closer to expressing a position more people could support. I would like to see us urging our leaders to pull us back from this disastrous course, and to start working right now to halt the killing and truly protect the lives of our troops and all those in the war zone by bringing our troops home. That is a course which will set in motion the peace process which we will have to arrive at sooner or later.

There is no glory in war. We all become victims, those of us at home who acquiesce to leaders who want war as well as the young people who are required to put their lives on the line.

  
Amy Paige

cc: Rep. Kay Brown  
Rep. Max Gruenberg  
Rep. Niilo Koponen



HJR-8 (Committee File)

Pat:

FYI: More on the Resolution from Hell.....

Bishop Kinney called the office Friday about 5:15 p.m. after hearing our committee moved HJR-8, the Gulf Resolution.

His main concern was the resolve clause that in essence says the legislature supports the Pres. et. al. as they use whatever means necessary to resolve the war. He worries that phrase ultimately endorses the use of nuclear weapons - which, of course, he opposes.

Specifically, the Bishop asked that the following words beginning in line 19, page 2, and ending with the first two words of line 20, page 2, be eliminated. "Legislature....urge President Bush, the Congress, and the United Nations to [USE WHATEVER MEANS ARE NECESSARY TO] bring the conflict to an end as soon as possible...."

He asked that I relay his concerns to you and that you give thought to adopt his suggestion or try to reword the resolution so that it does not contain the language that could be interpreted as an endorsement of the use of nuclear weapons.

According to the Bishop he will be contacting other legislators.

M

FISCAL NOTE

No. 1  
 Bill Version: CSHJR 8(STA)  
 (H) Publish Date: 2/1/91

STATE OF ALASKA  
 1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Department Affected: Military Veterans Affairs  
 Title: Persian Gulf Conflict BRU: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Component: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor: Rep. Barnes  
 Requestor: House State Affairs Committee COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 

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Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
PERSONAL SERVICES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

<b>CAPITAL</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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<b>REVENUE</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
<b>TOTAL</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS: N/A

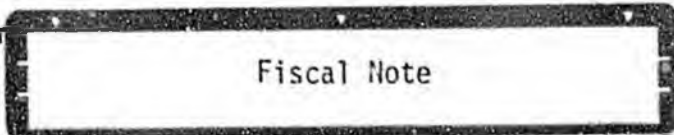
FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year impact: \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Prepared By: House State Affairs Committee Phone: 465-4859  
 Division: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approved by Commissioner: Representative Gene Kubina, Chair  
 Agency: House State Affairs Committee Date: 1-28-91

Distribution (by preparer, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).)



HJR

14



# Alaska State Legislature

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Official Business

P.O. Box V  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

### M E M O R A N D U M

**TO:** Senate State Affairs Committee Members

**FROM:** Representative Georgianna Lincoln *glo*  
House District 24

**SUBJECT:** House Joint Resolution No. 14

**DATE:** February 25, 1991

House Joint Resolution No. 14, introduced at the request of emergency firefighters in my district, urges the Secretary of the Interior to implement a policy of withholding federal income tax payments from their wages.

It is the policy of the Department of the Interior (DOI) to not withhold federal taxes from wages paid to emergency firefighters. They have been granted an exemption by the Internal Revenue Service which allows this action.

Emergency firefighting crews are employed by both the State of Alaska's Department of Natural Resources and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The State of Alaska withholds federal taxes from wages paid to emergency firefighters, a policy supported by the firefighters.

The attached two-page Emergency Firefighter (EFF) Payroll shows 55 communities with firefighting crews, all rural with the exception of Fairbanks. In 1990, \$6,558,772.85 was paid by the State of Alaska, and federal taxes were withheld. For the same year, \$5,745,417.38 was paid to firefighters, almost all rural, with no federal tax withholdings. That leaves a large bill due the federal government on this income.

As a result of hardships created by DOI's policy, emergency firefighters in Alaska have asked that federal taxes be withheld from the wages paid by BLM. Paychecks, especially for rural Alaskans, are few and far between. Consequently, saving money for Uncle Sam's bill due in April, versus meeting the basic needs of their families, becomes secondary. When April 15 arrives, these

firefighters are faced with a large tax bill that is difficult to pay. Additionally, unlike the more urban areas of the state, we do not have tax preparation services in the villages.

The Alaska Federation of Natives did adopt a resolution in support of HJR 14 at their board meeting last week by a unanimous vote. Letters of support and two other resolutions are attached.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HJR 14

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Department Affected: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: Emergency Firefighters' Income Tax BRU: \_\_\_\_\_

Component: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor: Representative Lincoln

Requestor: House State Affairs Committee COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 

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Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
PERSONAL SERVICES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

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

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS: N/A

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year impact: \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Prepared By: House State Affairs Committee Phone: 465-4859

Division: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 1-31-91

Approved by Commissioner: Representative Gene Kubina, Chair *Gene Kubina*

Agency: House State Affairs Committee Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

EFF Payroll

Village	Agency	Hours Worked	Gross Wages
Allakaket	AFS TAL	20,271.0	\$ 239,324.72
Ambler	AFS GAL	13,568.5	\$ 160,414.08
Aniak	DOF SWAF	5,115.5	\$ 60,446.32
Arctic Village	AFS UYK	3,028.0	\$ 35,872.30
Beaver	AFS UYK	11,048.5	\$ 126,955.08
Big Lake	DOF AMSF	6,635.5	\$ 81,405.52
Buckland	AFS GAL	10,467.0	\$ 124,942.00
Chalkyitsik	AFS UYK	2,818.5	\$ 33,363.78
Chevak	DOF SWAF	20,381.5	\$ 237,061.82
Copper Center	DOF VCRA	18,090.5	\$ 216,814.84
Delta	DOF DAF	45,956.0	\$ 540,106.38
Eagle	AFS UYK	11,819.0	\$ 139,791.98
Fairbanks	DOF FAF	203,872.0	\$ 2,453,619.71
Fairbanks <sup>1</sup>	AFS	52,585.0	\$ 616,692.97
Fort Yukon	AFS UYK	35,422.0	\$ 417,771.14
Galena	AFS GAL	22,810.0	\$ 264,851.89
Grayling	AFS GAL	7,933.0	\$ 93,831.74
Holy Cross	AFS GAL	8,955.5	\$ 105,928.92
Hooper Bay	DOF SWAF	28,762.5	\$ 338,523.04
Hughes	AFS TAL	11,820.0	\$ 139,185.20
Huslia	AFS GAL	20,400.0	\$ 240,426.32
Iliamna	DOF SWAF	N/A	\$ N/A
Juneau (Angoon)	USFS R-10	5,037.5	\$ 58,664.42
Kalskag <sup>2</sup>	DOF SWAF	26,997.5	\$ 314,013.34
Katag	AFS GAL	25,810.0	\$ 303,446.71
Kiana	AFS GAL	11,405.5	\$ 134,242.09
Kotlik	AFS GAL	N/A	\$ N/A
Koyuk	AFS GAL	10,381.5	\$ 122,762.63
Koyukuk	AFS GAL	13,112.5	\$ 155,593.25
McGrah	DOF SWAF	17,541.5	\$ 206,579.97
Mentasta	DOF TAF	11,722.0	\$ 152,888.79
Minto	AFS TAL	18,258.5	\$ 215,588.45
Mt. Village	AFS GAL	5,386.5	\$ 63,846.79
Nenana	DOF FAF	15,531.5	\$ 185,988.28
Nikolai	DOF SWAF	9,085.0	\$ 107,884.47
Nondalton	DOF SWAF	10,376.5	\$ 124,922.96
Noorvik	AFS GAL	14,443.5	\$ 170,639.91
Northway	DOF TAF	30,091.5	\$ 356,051.69
Nulato	AFS GAL	23,263.0	\$ 275,833.16
Pilot Station	AFS GAL	9,444.0	\$ 111,256.18
Rampart	AFS TAL	13,029.5	\$ 154,264.79
Ruby	AFS GAL	7,678.5	\$ 90,883.15
St. Mary's	AFS GAL	9,876.0	\$ 117,050.21
St. Michael	AFS GAL	8,804.0	\$ 103,707.03
Selawik	AFS GAL	21,916.5	\$ 258,554.76
Shageluk	DOF SWAF	5,754.5	\$ 68,576.02
Shungnak	AFS GAL	3,113.0	\$ 36,776.26

<sup>1</sup> DOF hired all crews in Fairbanks; AFS totals reflect miscellaneous hire for AFS support  
<sup>2</sup> Includes both Upper and Lower Kalskag

Village	Agency	Hours Worked	Gross Wages
Sleetmute	DOF SWAF	9,316.0	\$ 112,412.19
Stebbins	AFS GAL	13,594.0	\$ 160,875.85
Stevens Village	AFS UYK	3,690.5	\$ 43,096.35
Tanacross	DOF TAF	15,132.5	\$ 177,718.62
Tarana	AFS TAL	22,905.0	\$ 271,569.45
Tetlin	DOF TAF	7,713.0	\$ 99,698.53
Tok	DOF TAF	61,953.5	\$ 724,060.36
Venezic	AFS UYK	13,348.0	\$ 157,413.82
Sub-total USFS		5,037.5	\$ 58,664.42
Sub-total DOF		549,928.5	\$ 6,558,772.85
Sub-total AFS		482,406.0	\$ 5,686,752.96
Total		1,037,372.0	\$ 12,304,190.23

The above payroll figures represent wages paid to those villages which have designated crews. Other villages, (from which only miscellaneous EFF, and not crews, were hired), are listed below. The McGrath, Iliamna, and Kouluk crews were not hired as crews this summer. "N/A" indicates that the crew was unavailable during periods when crews were being hired. One "crew day" equals 16 people x 12 hours/day or 192 hours.

Miscellaneous wages paid in various communities that did not have crews:

Community	Agency	Hours worked	Gross Wages
Anchorage	DOF	26,104.0	\$ 289,488.14
Glennallen	DOF	16,423.5	\$ 195,034.33
Palmer	DOF	11,638.5	\$ 138,213.43
Miscellaneous	DOF	18,805.0	\$ 216,702.23
Miscellaneous	AFS	1,511.5	\$ 18,129.52
Sub-total DOF		72,971.0	\$ 839,438.13
Sub-total AFS		1,511.5	\$ 18,129.52
Total Miscellaneous		74,482.5	\$ 857,567.65
Grand total USFS		5,037.5	\$ 58,664.42
Grand total DOF		622,899.5	\$ 7,398,210.98
Grand total AFS		483,917.5	\$ 5,704,882.48
Grand Total Hours and Wages		1,111,854.5	\$ 13,161,757.88

Native Village of Tanana  
TANANA IRA TRIBAL COUNCIL  
P.O. Box 93  
Tanana, Alaska 99777  
(907) 366-7160

Georgianna Lincoln, Representative  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Georgianna:

I want to write a letter of heartfelt support for the legislation you have introduced to make BLM aware of the problem caused by their refusal to withhold federal income taxes from firefighter's checks.

Over the years living in Tanana I have often been asked to assist community members with preparation of the federal income taxes. During the past five years Patti Hyslop and I, working to provide services to Tanana tribal members, have assisted with the preparation of more than a hundred individual income tax returns. Many of those tax returns have been for men and women employed as emergency fire-fighters. Since BLM initiated the policy of not withholding federal income taxes from firefighting wages, we have seen many serious problems that work hardships on the people involved.

Essentially there are two areas of difficulty:

-People who understand the federal tax system and feel that they will be able to save the amount required to pay their federal taxes when they come due the following April; and

-Individuals, particularly young or elderly firefighters (Yes, we have elderly firefighters!) who do not understand the federal taxing system and are unaware that taxes are not being withheld or even that their firefighting income is taxable.

People who understand the taxing system, often initially put aside money to pay income tax in the spring, but faced with no income during winter months, end up using the "tax money" for basic necessities such as food or cold-weather clothing. Others underestimate how much taxes they will actually owe in the spring. When you are literally penniless, as many people are during the winter, the temptation to use any kind of savings is overwhelming.

People who do not understand the tax system often do not even know they have to file and so neglect to file. Eventually IRS catches up with them and once that happens they are faced with a double-whammy...not only the initial filing, but also penalties and interest.

For literally all fire-fighters, the withholding problem creates real hardships in their lives. When April comes the money to pay taxes simply is not there. This means that some have to go on a payment system with IRS which creates additional liabilities in the forms of penalties and interest...assuming they can find the money even to make payments.

I see no excuse for this policy by an agency of the federal government. All other employers paying over the base-line salary are required to withhold. It is my understanding that even IRS has a problem with the actions of BLM.

As you are undoubtedly aware, Tanana Tribal Council introduced a resolution at the Tanana Chiefs Conference

WPS  
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annual meeting addressing this problem. The resolution passed overwhelmingly and became direction for Tanana Chiefs Conference administration. So we know this isn't just a localized problem but is without a doubt, a problem for rural people all over the State.

Anything that you can accomplish to alleviate this will be widely applauded.

Sincerely yours,

Carla K. Bonney, Director  
Tribal Health and Social Services

SILAS HENRY  
P.O. BOX 93  
TANANA, ALASKA 99777  
(907) 366-7183

February 8, 1991

Representative Georgianna Lincoln  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Representative Lincoln:

I am a married man with five dependents and have been a emergency fire fighter for the past twenty five years. Due to limited financial opportunities in the Village of Tanana, I am currently unemployed. Due to BLM's policy of not taking out taxes from our seasonal firefighting checks, it is causing an unneeded hardship on me and my family. I never know how much taxes I will have to pay and due to being unemployed during the winter months, I can never pay the taxes when it is time file a tax return. Every year I am behind on paying my taxes and the interests only build up to make matters worst.

Your efforts in eliviating this problem will be greatly appreciated by all of the emergency firefighters in the Village of Tanana.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns on this issue.

Sincerely,



Silas Henry  
Seasonal Fire Fighter

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TANANA NATIVE CO

P.02

**TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, INC.**  
Board of Directors  
Resolution No. 90-108

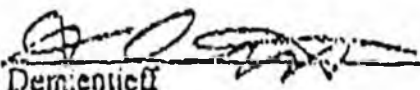
**BLM FIREFIGHTING TAX WITHHOLDING**

- WHEREAS, Alaskans fight fires for the federal government each summer and Alaskans earn thousands of dollars for wages, and;
- WHEREAS, all wages earned do not have federal taxes withheld, and;
- WHEREAS, this causes Alaskans a severe hardship in that they get in debt to IRS and cannot afford to pay the taxes owed;
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Board of Directors petition Congress to provide income tax withholding from BLM firefighter pay.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. Board of Directors on March 15, 1990 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

Submitted by: Tanana/Allakaket

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mitch Demientieff  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.



HJR

20

FISCAL NOTE

No. 1  
 Bill Version: CSHJR 20(ITT)  
 (H) Publish Date: 2/19/91

STATE OF ALASKA  
 1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Department Affected: Office of the Governor  
 Title: Encouraging the US and Soviet national govts. to establish consular  
 Component: Office of International Trade

Sponsor: H. Intl. Trade and Tourism

Requestor: Committee COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 

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Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
<b>TOTAL</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

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

Estimate of current year impact:

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)  
 Resolution encourages Soviet and American national governments to establish new consulates in Alaska and the Soviet Far East. There is no fiscal impact to the state of Alaska.

Prepared By: David Ramseur Phone: 465-3940

Division: Rep. Tom Moyer, Chairman Date: 2/13/91

Approved by Commissioner: *Tom Moyer*

Agency: H. Intl. Trade and Tourism Committee Date: 2/13/91

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, CMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND TOURISM

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX V, JUNEAU 99811  
(907) 465-2973



MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Pat Rodey  
Chairman, Senate State Affairs

April 22, 1991

From: Representative Tom Moyer *TMM*  
Chairman, House Special Committee  
on International Trade and Tourism

Re: HJR20, Soviet and U.S. consulates

With this memo, I would like to respectfully request the Senate State Affairs Committee to consider this resolution at your earliest convenience. The resolution encourages the U.S. and Soviet national governments to establish new consulate offices in Alaska and the Soviet Far East to help process the required approvals for business ventures, exchanges and travel between the two countries.

The resolution is timely because Alaska Airlines begins new regular service to the Soviet Far East in June and Aeroflot begins service to Anchorage in early May. In addition, the U.S. Congress may soon consider legislation that would have an impact on these consulates. Senator Frank Murkowski recently testified before a joint hearing of the House and Senate International Trade and Tourism committees that such a resolution would be helpful to congressional deliberations.

The resolution has been favorably considered by the full House and by the Senate Special Committee on International Trade and Tourism.

I am prepared to testify about the resolution at your convenience. Please let me know if I can answer any questions or provide additional information about it.

WALTER J. HICKEL  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALASKA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
JUNEAU

December 13, 1990

Mr. V.M. Zelanov, Chief  
Consular Affairs Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Dear Victor Matveyevitch:

My administration is firmly committed to the development of close ties between Alaska and the Soviet Union. It is our hope that your government will establish its second West Coast consulate in Alaska.

Toward that end, I wish to extend an invitation to you to visit our state at a mutually convenient time in order that we may pursue discussions about the consulate. I am proud that Alaskans have been in the forefront of people-to-people and commercial contacts between our two countries. A consulate would permit further development of our maturing relationship.

In the meantime, we look forward to your continuing support of the on-going exchanges occurring between Alaska and the Soviet Far East, such as the Juneau - Vladivostok exchange occurring later this week.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Walter J. Hickel".

Walter J. Hickel  
Governor

Letters of Support

Walter J. Hickel  
Governor,  
State of Alaska

February 8, 1991

Dear Mr. Hickel,

Let me express my deep appreciation for your kind letter on the opening of the Soviet consulate in Alaska.

I share your opinion that both countries should work together and do everything to promote further development of all-round ties between inhabitants of Alaska and the Soviet Far East. We highly regard your personal efforts and participation in bilateral projects between the two regions.

It is very kind of you to invite me to Alaska. Unfortunately, at this time my schedule is rather tight which prevents me from planning such a trip. However, I will return to you as soon as I am a bit less busy here in my Department.

Sincerely,

*Victor M. Zelenov*  
Victor M. ZELENOV

Head, Consular Affairs  
Department,  
Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs, Moscow, USSR

# NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
P.O. BOX A  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

STEVE COWPER,  
GOVERNOR



FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

DAVID RAMSEUR  
PRESS SECRETARY

TERRENCE O'MALLEY  
DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY

(907) 465-3500

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 1, 1990  
No. 90-38

## COWPER CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REQUEST CONSULATES

JUNEAU--Gov. Steve Cowper and Alaska's congressional delegation have asked President Bush to support the opening of an American consulate in Khabarovsk, USSR, and a Soviet consulate in Anchorage.

"These offices would provide valuable services to support our efforts to promote business, cultural and social exchanges and transactions between Alaska and her neighbors to the west," Cowper, Sens. Ted Stevens and Frank Murkowski and Rep. Don Young wrote in a letter to Bush this week.

"The number of people traveling between Alaska and the Soviet Far East has increased substantially and rapidly. Your favorable consideration of this request will help with visa approvals and other matters important to travelers," they said.

The U.S. currently has an embassy in Moscow and a consulate in Leningrad, but offers no formal diplomatic services in the Soviet Far East. The Soviet consulate closest to Alaska is located in San Francisco.

The Alaska officials requested that the additional U.S. consulate office be located in Khabarovsk because the city serves as the economic center of the Soviet Far East and is the aviation hub of the region. In addition, Alaska Airlines is seeking rights to fly between Alaska and Khabarovsk.

"Imagine if Alaskans had to apply to Washington D.C. for a visa to travel to Canada. That's about the situation we're in with the Soviets right now," Cowper said. "These new consulate offices would streamline the visa process and enhance our ability to cultivate economic, social and cultural trade with the Soviets. The two regions - Alaska and the Soviet Far East - would mutually benefit from these consulates."

-MORE-