

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1997-1998 8672

9734 SENATE STATE AFFAIRS

SB

46



FRAN ULMER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF ALASKA

February 6, 1997

Senator Lyda Green, Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee
State Capitol - Room 125
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Green:

Senate Bill 46, naming the new Alaska State ferry, was passed out of the Senate Transportation Committee on Tuesday, February 5. The next committee of referral is Senate State Affairs, which you chair. I would greatly appreciate it if you would schedule a hearing on SB 46 as soon as your schedule allows.

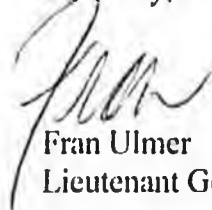
As you probably know, Alaska Statute 19.65.020 requires that ferries be named after glaciers. There are 609 named glaciers in Alaska. To help us choose a name for the new ferry, we ran a statewide essay contest among 6th through 8th grade children in November. The contest was coordinated through my office, but we had the help of the Department of Education (DOE), The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF), House Speaker Gail Phillips and Senator Drue Pearce. Over 200 students across the state participated in the contest.

All essays went through preliminary judging, first at the local school level and at the school district level. The best of these essays were sent to DOE where a team of judges (Dr. Roger Pearson, head of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Geography Department; Judy Bittner, Director of the state Office of History and Archaeology; Tom Steward, a retired judge from Juneau; and Judith Entwife, former Language Arts Specialist for the Department of Education) chose the ten best and forwarded them on for the final judging round.

On January 9, Senator Pearce, House Speaker Phillips and I met to make the final selection. After much discussion, we chose the essay and name submitted by 11-year old Leah Jarvis of Copper Center. "Kennicott," according to Leah, "is a great ferry name because it is a well known name and it isn't an obscure glacier that tourists can't see and have never heard of. It drains into the Gulf of Alaska, it is adjacent to a mine that is a big part of Alaska history, it is beautiful, and it was named for a famous explorer."

I have included a copy of Leah's essay as background material. Also enclosed is a copy of the contest rules, the judging criteria sent to all schools, and various press releases which explain the contest. If you need more information on the process, please let me know. I hope you'll consider hearing SB 46 soon.

Sincerely,



Fran Ulmer
Lieutenant Governor

Entry Form
Alaska Marine Highway System:
Name the Vessel Contest

Attach this form to the front of your essay.

Student Name Leah Jarvis
Parent or Guardian Name Jonathan Jarvis
Mailing Address P.O. Box 136
Copper Center, AK 99573
Home Phone (907) 822-3774 Parent/Guardian Daytime Phone (907) 822-5234
Name of School Glennallen Elementary
Grade Level 6th grade Student's age as of 11-22-96 11 years old

Presentation. The essay should be:

- Up to 750 words in length
- Typed and double spaced on plain white paper
- Your name and grade level on each page of the essay

Judging the Essays. Completed essays should be submitted to your school teacher. Each school will review its students' essays. One essay will be chosen from each school to send to the school district. The school district will select one essay from all the public, private, charter, and home schools in its district. The Department of Education will then review the essays submitted by the districts. Ten essays will be selected from this group and sent on for final judging by the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, and the Lieutenant Governor.

Timeline.

- November 22 Essays due to the schools
- December 2 Essays submitted to the school district
- December 10 Essays submitted to Department of Education
- January 3 Essays submitted for final judging
- January 13 Winner announced at opening of 1997 Alaska State Legislative Session

Leah Jarvis
6th grade

Famous Explorer, Robert Kennicott, to Appear on State Ferry

I think the new Alaska ferry should be named after the Kennicott Glacier. The Kennicott Glacier is a spectacular glacier located on the southern side of the Wrangell Mountains inside Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, the largest national Park in the United States.

The Kennicott Glacier is a dazzlingly beautiful glacier that stretches for 27 miles and is 4 miles wide at the widest. The lines of moraine carried by the glacier cause it to look like a ribbon winding through the wilderness. The glacier flows off of 16,390 ft. Mt. Blackburn, which is one of the tallest peaks in North America. The Ahtna name for Mt. Blackburn, K'als'i Tl'aadi means "the one at cold waters." The Kennicott Glacier feeds into the Chitina River, a tributary of the Copper River, which is one of the largest rivers draining into the Gulf of Alaska.

In 1899, the Kennicott Glacier was named after pioneer explorer Robert Kennicott by Oscar Rohrer, the first non-Native American to describe the Kennicott area. Kennicott was leader of the scientific corps of the Western Union Telegraph Expedition to Alaska of 1865-1867. The goal of this expedition was to build a telegraph line stretching all the way from California through Canada and Alaska, across the Bering Strait, through Russia and into Europe. Even though the line was never completed, the information Kennicott's team collected helped Congress to decide to buy Alaska from Russia.

Lieut. Henry T. Allen led the first non-native expedition up the Copper River in 1885. While traveling, Lt. Allen met Chief Nicolai, who told him the secret of the copper deposit near the Kennicott Glacier. This led to the development of the mining town of Kennecott¹, the site of one of the richest copper discoveries in the world. A railroad was built along the Copper River to transport the copper ore from the mines in Kennecott to the coast so it could be shipped out. Cordova was established as a port for the ships

Leah Jarvis
6th grade

carrying the ore. The Kennecott mine produced an astounding 214,000,000 lb. of copper and 9 million ounces of silver between 1904 and 1938.

The Copper River railway offered an all American route to the Alaskan interior, a route that was free of Canadian taxes. The railway extended for 196 miles, took 4 years to construct, and cost \$23,000,000 to build. In 1938, the mine shut down and the railway was closed due to lack of copper ore.

Today tourists can drive to Kennecott to see the old mining town and the Kennicott Glacier. I've been there and it is really neat to see the old mining town and the mine itself. You can walk among the crumbling buildings, and if you close your eyes and listen very hard you can almost see and hear the workers shouting to each other and the rumbling of the huge machines. Suddenly you open your eyes and come back to reality. But one thing has hardly changed from the time when the mine was working. The huge Kennicott Glacier still stretches in front of the whole place.

Kennicott is a great ferry name because it is a well known name and it isn't an obscure glacier that tourists can't see and have never heard of. It drains into the Gulf of Alaska, it is adjacent to a mine that is a big part of Alaska history, it is beautiful, and it was named for a famous Alaska explorer. Because Robert Kennicott is an important part of Alaska's history, I think naming the ferry for him would honor this famous explorer greatly.

One thing that I should clarify is that the correct spelling of the Kennicott Glacier is with an "i" instead of an "e". When the owners of the Kennecott mine got to Alaska, they misspelled Robert Kennicott's name and it became the common spelling of the name of the town and the mine.

State of Alaska
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

FRAN ULMER
Lieutenant Governor
Post Office Box 110015
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0015
NEWS RELEASE



CONTACT:
Glenda Carino
907-465-3520
FAX: 907-465-5400

Fran_Ulmer@Gov.state.ak.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 16, 1996

96/032

**Lieutenant Governor announces contest
to name the new Alaska Marine Highway Ferry**

Alaskan students in grades six through eight will have the opportunity to participate in naming the new Alaska Marine Highway ferry which will be launched in July of 1997, according to Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer. "By statute, the ferry is named after an Alaskan glacier," Ulmer said. "We thought it would be educational and fun to let students choose the name through an essay contest." The contest is being coordinated through the Department of Education, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF), and through the Lieutenant Governor's office with cooperation from the Speaker of the House and the Senate President.

Each student who enters the contest will write an essay no more than 750 words telling why they chose a particular glacier name and submit it to their school. Judges at each school will choose the best essay and submit it to the school district where one essay will be chosen and submitted to the Department of Education. Private, charter and home school students can also participate by submitting their essays to their closest public school district. Ten essays will be chosen by judges at the Department of Education and submitted for final judging by the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate and the Lieutenant Governor. Essays will be judged on content, originality, geography standards, composition and writing skills, grammar and spelling.

All participants will receive a letter and certificate of appreciation. District winners will receive a photo of the vessel. The top ten winners will win a three day ferry pass for themselves and their parents. The winning essay will be permanently mounted on the new vessel and the winner and his/her parents will receive a six day ride, including a stateroom and meals, on any Marine Highway vessel. Entry forms will be mailed to all participating school districts by the end of October and students will have until November 22 to complete their essays. For more information or to request an entry form, call Glenda Carino at (907) 465-3521.

-30-

Broadcast Advisory: Video actualities with Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer and DOTPF Commissioner Joe Perkins will be available on the Governor's window at 3:30 p.m. today.

State of Alaska
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

FRAN ULMER
Lieutenant Governor
Post Office Box 110015
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0015
NEWS RELEASE



CONTACT:
Glenda Carino
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FAX: 907-465-5400

Fran_Ulmer@Gov.state.ak.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 15, 1996

STUDENTS WRITE ESSAYS TO NAME NEW STATE FERRY

Construction of the Alaska Marine Highway System's new 380' ferry is proceeding on schedule at a ship yard in Moss Point, Mississippi. The ship is approximately 10 percent completed and has a July 1997 projected launch date. When the outfitting, test, and trials are completed, the vessel will be delivered to Alaska in May 1998.

The new ferry will be capable of taking over any of the current system routes in addition to cross-gulf service. New features on this vessel include outfitting to operate as a spill response command center, state of the art communications, a helicopter pad, and ADA accessibility. Amenities also include a theater, restaurant, coffee shop, and telephone kiosks with modem hook-ups.

While construction proceeds in Mississippi, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders across Alaska have been invited to write essays to suggest a name for the new ferry. By statute, all Alaska Marine Highway ferries must be named after an Alaska glacier. The Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Department of Education, and Marine Highway System are overseeing the essay contest to match up the glacier name with the new ship. Student essays are due to their schools on November 22. Each school will select one essay to forward to its school district. The school districts will each select one essay to forward to the Department of Education. DOE will then select ten finalists. The winning essay will be selected by Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer, House Speaker Gail Phillips, and Senate President Drue Pearce. The winning name will be announced at the opening session of the 1997 legislature.

The student who proposes the winning name and his/her parents will receive a six-day cruise on a ferry and the essay will be permanently mounted in the new ferry. Students or educators wishing more information about the essay contest can contact Susan Favro in Juneau at 586-6341.

State of Alaska
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

FRAN ULMER
Lieutenant Governor
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Juneau, Alaska 99811-0015
NEWS RELEASE



CONTACT:
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FAX: 907-465-5400

Fran_Ulmer@Gov.state.ak.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 13, 1997

97/002

**And the winner is...Leah Jarvis of Glennallen Elementary
Copper River School District sixth grader writes winning essay
Governor to introduce a bill naming the new ferry the MV Kennicott**

Leah Jarvis' essay was selected over nine others in the final round of judging to name Alaska's new state ferry. She was among more than 200 middle grade school students statewide to enter the contest and among the ten top essays reviewed in the final round of judging. The eleven year old is a sixth grader from Glennallen Elementary in Copper Center.

The judges--Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer, Senator Drue Pearce, Co-chair of the Senate Finance Committee and House Speaker Gail Phillips--announced the winner today in a joint press conference held in the Speaker's Chambers. Jarvis' essay convinced Ulmer, Pearce and Phillips that the new ferry should be named the MV Kennicott in honor of the Kennicott Glacier which is located inside the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

"Kennicott is a great ferry name because it is a well known name and it isn't an obscure glacier that tourists can't see and have never heard of," wrote Jarvis. "It drains into the Gulf of Alaska, it is adjacent to a mine that is a big part of Alaska history, it is beautiful, and it was named for a famous explorer." The explorer, Robert Kennicott, was the leader of the scientific corps of the Western Union Telegraph Expedition to Alaska from 1865 to 1867, according to the essay.

Speaker Phillips says she likes the name chosen by the sixth grader. "The name Kennicott stirs the romance and imagination of the hey days of one of the largest mining ventures in Alaska history," Phillips said. "It is a fitting name for our newest state ferry--it ties together our resource development and the transportation of not only our resources but our people."

"It was exciting to see the level of creativity expressed by all the students who submitted essays for the Name the Ferry Contest," said Senator Pearce. "While we had a rough time choosing a favorite, we felt the Kennicott name carries with it a rich and colorful history that is truly Alaskan. This name deserves to be on the bow of the state's newest ship."

-MORE-

Page 2
Contest winner
January 13, 1997

All essays went through preliminary judging, according to Ulmer. "Each school sent its best essay to their school district," she said, "then the school districts submitted the winners from their round of judging to the Department of Education where they were judged by Dr. Roger Pearson, head of UAF's Geography Department; Judy Bittner, Director of the state Office of History and Archaeology; Tom Stewart, a retired judge from Juneau; and Judith Entwife, former Language Arts Specialist for the Department. They picked the ten best and forwarded them to us for the final round."

Glennallen Elementary should be proud that Leah's essay made it through the rigorous judging, Ulmer said, but she also praised all students who entered the contest. "There were some amazing essays and some very convincing reasons why the ferry should carry the students' chosen glacier name," she said.

Since all state ferries must be named by statute, Ulmer says the Governor will introduce a bill on Tuesday designating the new state ferry the MV Kennicott. Leah Jarvis will be flown to Juneau to be honored when the Governor signs the bill. She and her parents will also receive a voucher for a six-day ferry trip, including stateroom and meals. The nine other essay contestants in the final round will receive free three-day trips.

State of Alaska
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

FRAN ULMER
Lieutenant Governor
Post Office Box 110015
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0015
NEWS RELEASE



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96/034

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 20, 1996

Name the Ferry Contest in it's final judging round
Top ten finalists forwarded to Lieutenant Governor

The Department of Education (DOE) has picked the ten best essays from the finalists of 22 school districts. Over 200 essays were submitted by students sixth through eighth grades hoping to name the new Alaska state ferry, according to DOE staff member, Marjorie Menzie.

Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer received the essays from the Department this afternoon. "By statute, the ferry must be named after an Alaskan glacier," Ulmer explained. "The essay contest was launched in November in an effort to involve Alaska's middle grade students." The contest was coordinated through the Lieutenant Governor's Office, the Department of Education and the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. The top ten winners are to receive a three day ferry pass for themselves and their parents. In alphabetical order, they are:

Chystina Atkins, 6th grader from Fairbanks School District
suggested ferry name: MV Kahiltna

Brendan Clancy, 6th grader from Delta Greely School District
suggested ferry name: MV Trident

Everett Craik, 8th grader from S.E. Island School District
suggested ferry name: MV La Perouse

Leah Jarvis, 6th grader from Copper River School District
suggested ferry name: MV Kennicott

Jeremy Lehman, 6th grader from Anchorage School District
suggested ferry name: MV Portage

Tony Mackie, 7th grader from Craig School District
suggested ferry name: MV Seward

Rachel Naegele, 8th grader from Wasilla Christian School
suggested ferry name: MV Okpilak

-more-

Devin Person, 6th grader from Iditarod School District
suggested ferry name: MV Kahiltna

Mackenzie Slater, 6th grader from Juneau Home School Correspondence
suggested ferry name: MV Muir

Jodie E. Totten, 6th grader from Sitka School District
suggested ferry name: MV Muir

The Department of Education called on a team of experts to do the blind judging. They were: Judy Bittner, Office of History and Archeology; Judith Entwife, Former Language Arts Specialist at DOE; Dr. Roger Pearson, Head of the Geography Department at the University of Alaska Fairbanks; and Judge Tom Stewart. They reviewed each essay and ranked them according to originality, accuracy and completeness, composition and writing skills, grammar and spelling, ideas and content, organization, sentence fluency, word choice and conventions.

Ulmer has scheduled the final judging round to be held on January 9. The three judges include Ulmer, Representative Gail Phillips and Senator Drue Pearce. "We hope to name the winning entry on the first day of session," she said. "The winner will be brought to the Capitol for official recognition" Ulmer said, "as well as receive a six day ferry ride which will include a stateroom and meals for the winner and his/her parents."

The Department of Transportation expects the new ferry will be launched in the spring of 1997. The essay will be permanently displayed on the marine vessel, as well as the winning name.

A Rundown on the Contest:

The laws of Alaska require a state ferry be named after an Alaska glacier. This essay contest will allow an student in the 6th, 7th, or 8th grade to choose that name. Students will write an essay of up to 750 words explaining why they picked a particular glacier name.

Judges at each school will pick the best essay from that school and forward it on to the school district. The school district will then choose one essay and forward it on to the Department of Education. The Department of Education will choose the ten best essays and forward them to Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer, Senate President Drue Pearce, and Speaker of the House Gail Phillips for final judging. The essays will be judged on content, originality, composition and writing skills, grammar, and spelling.

All participants will receive a letter and certificate of appreciation. District winners will receive a photo of the vessel. The top ten winners will win a three-day ferry pass for themselves and their parents. The winning essay will be permanently mounted on the new vessel, and the winner and his/her parents will receive a six-day cruise, including stateroom and meals, on any Marine Highway vessel.

**Essay due date:
November 22, 1996**

This is a project developed and coordinated by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the Alaska Marine Highway System, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, and the Alaska Department of Education. If you have questions, call Susan Favro at Meeting Results in Juneau: 907/586-6341.

Fran Ulmer
Lieutenant Governor
P.O. Box 110015
Juneau, AK 99811-0015

Nonprofit Org.
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Juneau, AK
Permit No. 16



MIN?

The Alaska Marine Highway System's new ferry needs a name

Write an essay to name a ferry and win:

- A 6-day cruise on one of the ferries, including a stateroom and meals (for both you and your parents)
- Your essay permanently displayed on the new ferry!



ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY
— A Proud Tradition —

Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities
P.O. Box 25535
Juneau, AK 99802-5535

<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/external/amhs/home.html>

Did you know:

- An Alaska Marine Highway ferry has to be named after an Alaska glacier (it's the law!)
- Ten glacier names have been used (keep reading to find out which ones have been used)
- There are 599 more glacier names to choose from!

Here's How You Do It:

Get a list of Alaska glacier names (your school should have the list or use the Internet)

From the list of glaciers, Pick out a name for the new ferry (it's a 380 foot ocean cruiser!).

Write an essay of up to 750 words explaining why you selected the name. Be creative. Have fun with the essay.

Turn in your essay to your school. That's all there is to it!

Searching for a Glacier Name?

Yes, it's true, there really are 609 named glaciers in Alaska. To see a list of these glaciers, you can contact your school librarian or public librarian, or use the Internet (go to www-nmd.usgs.gov/www/gnis/gnisform.html). There are ten glacier names that have already been used. The following glacier names cannot be used again:

Aurora	Bartlett
Chilkat	Columbia
Le Conte	Malaspina
Matanuska	Taku
Tustumena	Wickersham

What makes for a winning essay—

Creativity. Use your imagination when picking out a name for the new ferry (but remember it has to be the name of an Alaskan glacier). Find that unique, original reason for using that name and write it down!

Accuracy. Find out about the glacier you've selected. What is the geographic, geologic, or historical significance of your selection?

Writing Skills. Your writing should be well organized. Develop your reasons for selecting the glacier name you chose.

Spelling and Grammar. Be watchful for spelling errors, typographical errors, and grammar usage. If you're using a computer, don't depend on the spell checker only. Proof your own work with your own eyes!

Presentation. The essay should be up to 750 words in length. It should be typed and double spaced on plain white paper. Make sure your name and grade level are on each page of your essay. Also, your school has an entry form that will be attached to your essay. Be sure to fill out all information requested on the entry form.

Judging the Essays. Completed essays should be submitted to your school teacher. Each school will review its students' essays. One essay will be chosen from each school to send to the school district. The school district will select one essay from all the public, private, charter, and home schools in its district. The Department of Education will then review the essays submitted by the districts. Ten essays will be selected from this group and sent on for final judging by the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, and the Lieutenant Governor.

Timeline. Essays are due on November 22. The essays go to the district on December 2 and to the Dept. of Education on December 10. The final judging will be done in time to announce the winner at the opening session of the 1997 legislature.

- Prizes for everyone who enters:
- Everyone gets a special appreciation certificate
 - District winners get a photo of the new ferry
 - Top ten selected essays get a 3-day ferry pass for themselves and their parents
 - The winning essay writer gets a 6-day cruise on a ferry (with a stateroom and meals) plus their essay is permanently displayed in the new ferry.

The New Alaska Marine Highway Ocean Class Ferry

Length overall	380 feet
Maximum beam	85 feet
Draft, maximum	17.5 feet
Displacement	6,000 tons
Vehicle capacity	Southeast AK 120 cars/vans Gulf of Alaska 39 cars/20 vans
Passenger capacity	Southeast AK 750 Gulf of Alaska 500
Maximum design speed	19 knots
Service speed	16.75 knots
Lifeboats	four 150-person
Life rafts	50-person capacity each
Rescue boats	Two
Helicopter landing platform	55 sq ft.

Entry Form
Alaska Marine Highway System:
Name the Vessel Contest

Attach this form to the front of your essay.

Student Name _____

Parent or Guardian Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Home Phone _____ Parent/Guardian Daytime Phone _____

Name of School _____

Grade Level _____ Student's age as of 11-22-96 _____

Presentation. The essay should be:

- Up to 750 words in length
- Typed and double spaced on plain white paper
- Your name and grade level on each page of the essay

Judging the Essays. Completed essays should be submitted to your school teacher. Each school will review its students' essays. One essay will be chosen from each school to send to the school district. The school district will select one essay from all the public, private, charter, and home schools in its district. The Department of Education will then review the essays submitted by the districts. Ten essays will be selected from this group and sent on for final judging by the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, and the Lieutenant Governor.

Timeline.

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- December 10 Essays submitted to Department of Education
- January 3 Essays submitted for final judging
- January 13 Winner announced at opening of 1997
Alaska State Legislative Session

SB

54

TONY KNOWLES
GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001
(907) 465-3500
Fax (907) 465-3532

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

January 16, 1997

The Honorable Mike Miller
President of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Miller:

As part of my Administration's effort to reduce state spending and address our budget gap, I am reintroducing a bill that sets income limits on the longevity bonus. These limits would be set so that only those senior citizens in upper income brackets who least rely on the bonus would no longer be eligible for the program. I asked the legislature to consider this proposal last year and still believe it is a responsible approach to our need to cut state spending.

This bill would limit the longevity bonus to those senior citizens with gross incomes of less than \$60,000 a year or, for married seniors, a combined annual gross income of \$80,000.

Although the 1993 amendments to the bonus statutes closed the program to any new applicants as of this year, the savings over the next few years are relatively small. The plan presented in this bill is estimated to reduce program costs by about 8 percent, or about \$6 million annually. Another \$2 million would be saved in accompanying "hold harmless" provisions of the Adult Public Assistance budget because the federal government will not count the longevity bonus against public assistance payments if the bonus carries an income restriction--such as contained in this bill.

This proposal does not "needs base" the bonus program which some seniors oppose, believing that equates to welfare. Approximately 92 percent of seniors currently on the program, or more than 25,000 people, would see no change in their bonuses. The relatively high income level of \$60,000 means the bonus would not just be limited to those seniors at lower incomes, but would continue to recognize the contributions of our Alaska seniors.

The Honorable Mike Miller
January 16, 1997
Page 2

This bill considers only income, not assets, so recipients with moderate incomes will continue to receive the bonus even if they own valuable but non-liquid assets, such as homestead property or a residence which has greatly increased in value over the years. Also, a senior made ineligible for the bonus by this law would be reinstated to the program if his or her income later dropped below the cutoff levels.

This proposal is a logical approach to trimming our budget gap without reducing essential programs and services to our residents. I urge your consideration of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Knowles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tony Knowles
Governor

RECEIVED

FEB 19 1998
Ans'd.....

SBSY

Facsimile Transmittal Cover Sheet

JACK COLE

P. O. Box 178
Willow, Alaska 99688

Voice: 907-495-6447
Fax: 907-495-6447

Send To

Senator Lyda Green

Fax: 907-465-3805

Date: Feb. 18, 1997

OPPOSED

Number of Pages: 2

Dear Senator Green:

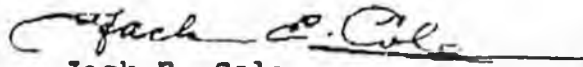
I sincerely regret being unable to attend the Town Meeting Saturday, Feb. 15th. at the Mat-Su Borough Assembly Chambers. Saturday is my shift change day from Prudhoe Bay where I am Airport Manager of the Deadhorse Airport.

This is my 6th year in this position with the State of Alaska, during which time my wife and I have been able to pay off our home mortgage and start to consider an investment program to add to my retirement. I am 74 years of age at this time and still working in effort to have a retirement that will allow me to stay in Alaska in our present home, living a modest lifestyle like the one we enjoy at this time.

Any reduction in income from our present level, which includes the Longevity Bonus for me would interrupt our forecasted plans and retirement date which I had hopefully set at June 1, 1998, at which time I will be six months beyond 75 years of age.

I am naturally opposed to any reduction in benefits to seniors at a time when the Governor sees fit to make deals that reduces the states income. I urge you to do what you can to block reductions from those of us who are still forced to work at this age trying to accumulate enough to retire upon.

Respectfully,

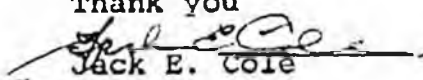

Jack E. Cole

Page 2

Senator Lyda Green

I really commend you for your effort in offering legislation to protect the permanent fund as well as all you are doing to provide funding for the senior and disabled veterans property tax exemption.

Thank you


Jack E. Cole

RECEIVED

FEB

1997

OPPOSED

2-11-97

Dear Senator Green:

Thank you for your invitation to attend the Town Meeting scheduled for 2/15/97. Since I may be unable to attend I am taking this opportunity to comment on senior issues.

I am strongly opposed to any change in the longevity bonus program, the property tax exemption or any other change which adversely affects the financial status of senior Alaskans.

Those of us who were Alaskans in 1972 when the longevity bonus and later the property tax exemption programs were enacted were pleased that the State recognized the contributions made by long time residents by offering a financial incentive to remain and enjoy the fruits of their labors.

These programs were never meant to be a form of income based welfare nor should they be. Most senior Alaskans are on fixed incomes which include these programs and would be unable to make up any financial loss.

One wonders how many senior families would be forced to leave the state if those programs

were reduced or discontinued and what the financial impact would be to the states economy with the loss of those family incomes. If only 12 "higher" income families left, the state would lose nearly \$1,000,000 from the economy.

One also wonders if the permanent fund dividend might also become an income based welfare program.

While it is understandable that the state is trying to reduce its budget and/or increase its income, to accomplish this on the backs of the people who can least afford it is totally unacceptable and in the long run would be detrimental to the state.

I would have no objection to a 2% capped state sales tax, a capped or reduced permanent fund dividend, the use of undistributed earnings or an inflation proofing deposit (but probably not both).

I feel sure that the permanent fund will continue to grow and provide a reasonable dividend to state residents.

Thank You for your Consideration.

James and Audrey Mayer
Box 4158 Palmer, AK 99645

cc. Senator Selford.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the (S) State Affairs committee name

committee on Senate Bill 54, dated March 8, bill/subject

Nursing home private care \$ 84,000 a year. I intend to pay my own way. I pay property taxes (with no income return) to Anchorage, Kenai & Matanuska equal to my longevity bonus. As I sell my home, vacant land in order to remain independent, I then can no longer stay in my home, where would the \$40,000 needed to pay for the income gap. I am handicapped with a rare disease "post-polio syndrome, in a body car." I have slept in in 1980 Dodge Van to obtain weeks of special care. How does a handicapped person figure in your \$60,000 income limit? Tony Knowles Trail Cost millions, miles long. To serve State Buses/Chairs the \$1,500,000 twisting Tudor Road at Brajan doesn't meet ADA Handicapped Standards. However, there is no legal remedy because wheel chairs & walkers can stay on the sidewalk & Dodge cars turning after the red light. This Bill pitches no one receiving a bonus, no loss bonus, reverse Vest. Thank you Senator Green & committee.

Signed: _____
Testifier _____
Representing (Optional) _____
Address _____
Phone No. _____

Terry Purrell (sorry my right hand is in a splint)
3716 Wesleyan Anch 97508
333-2774



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs Committee
 committee name
 committee on SB 54, dated March 8, 1997
 bill/subject

Please pass SB 54. It is irresponsible to dole out public money to people simply on the basis of age. An senior citizens are already passed, and I am usually considered one of them, I am 64, but as an Alaskan, since 1974, I have always considered the state owed me no handout and it would have to trim the handouts others as we faced the reality of paying to have a good state.

Education, infrastructure, maintenance of facilities already being neglected need the money.

The savings from this bill would more than pay for such programs for our youth as the Youth Corps Challenge Program.

Alaska must convince its people that all segments of the population should do their part.

Signed: Ed Earnhart
 Testifier

My community where I support crime control
 Representing (Optional) improved education and personal responsibility

1043 W. 74th Ave, Anch, AK 99518
 Address

347-1160
 Phone No.

RECEIVED

MAR 12 1997

Ans'd.....

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

FROM: LORENA SHOWERS
923 W. 11th #217, ANCHORAGE, AK 99501

Hotel Employees, Restaurant Employees Union
Local 878
Anchorage, Alaska

FAX No. (907) 277-8595
PHONE No. (907) 272-6591
or (800) 478-4373

TO: CHAIRMAN
SENATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

FAX No: (907) 465-3805

RE: TELECONFERENCE

DATE SENT: 3/11/97

Number of pages, including cover page: 2

Lorana Showers
923 W 11th #217

Anchorage, Alaska 99501-4387

REMARKS: MADE AT THE TELECONFERENCE IN ANCHORAGE
MARCH 08, 1997

Concerning needs based Longevity Bonus

I have carefully read your letter concerning your plans benefits for older Alaskans and state employees, which is great for all of them.

I find only one group in your letter who will lose income. It is very unfair to older Alaskans who have worked hard for many years, built Alaska, saved their money to enable them to have a better life as they grow older. A needs based program is never fair. You can know their income but not their expenses.

In this case those persons reaching 65 with income \$100 less than \$6000 may get the \$3000 per year, while the persons with \$100 over the \$6000 must lose \$3000 a year. The same thing applies to couples, they lose \$6000 income per year. It is a crime to reduce older Alaskans by \$3000 per year.

Medicare does not cover prescriptions, eye glasses, hearing aids or dental work. All very expensive for older persons. Many of this group care for ill and handicapped relatives, as well as some with low incomes.

If you would check in our daily newspaper you would find that many are dying who are in their 70's and 80's. There are from 2 to 8 every day. They no longer will be receiving the bonus which leaves more in the fund.

How can you give state employees a pension raise even retro-active when you cut these older persons income by \$3000 a year? Perhaps you have never considered some of these things. Just wait 2 or 3 more years, all those citizens in their 70's and 80's will be gone. Most of them anyway.

P.02

FAX NO. 907 465 4716

AK. COMM. ON AGING

MAR-06-97 THU 14:40

Please carefully detach at perforation

33204829

33245675

Dear Longevity Bonus Recipient,

I wanted to update you this month on my proposed 1998 capital budget which includes: money for a Senior Citizens Housing Development program which will provide grants for buying land; site preparation and building materials; continuing maintenance of Pioneers Homes across Alaska; and completion of Special Care units in the Sitka and Palmer Pioneers Homes for the care of residents with Alzheimers disease and related disorders. Do not forget the deadline for filing your 1997 PFD application is Monday, March 31st.

Sincerely,
Governor Tony Knowles

Please detach and return only the bottom validation form



Alaska State Legislature

RECEIVED
MAR 11
ANS

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Stat Affairs
committee name

committee on 54, dated 3-8-97
bill/subject

I am opposed to this bill, because
longevity is earned - not welfare based
on income - The longevity is already
passed out & should be left alone -
Although income brackets high this
year what prevent legislature to decrease
the income level in future years - My
opinion is if longevity is taken away
The state will lose alot of their valued
Seniors - 90% of Seniors longevity
money stays in Alaska and help
the economy to Alaska

Signed: Mary Halpin (I am 47 & do not
Testifier receive
longevity)

Mid-Valley Seniors, Houston AK.
Representing (Optional)

(mine) P.O. Box 518 Palmer AK 99645
Address

907-746-1146
Phone No.

Our Governor is Shipping Our Seniors down River
with out a Pallet!

Have you figured our minimum
 cost to the state is to save
 \$8,000,000 dollars? The loss of income
 from Seniors who will leave the state,
 the cost of monitoring the eligibility
 for longevity? It will cost 3X's
 if not more to save \$8,000,000 —

RECEIVED

MAR 08 1997

AM 11:00

Senate State Affairs
 Halpin
 ps 2



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
 committee name
 committee on 54, dated 3/8/97
 bill/subject

I am opposed to Senate Bill 54. I have been on Longevity Funds since its beginning. 90% of Srs don't make 60-80 thou in income ^{living here 38yr} so paper work is wasted. Most of the funds are spent in Alaska. If we can't afford to live here we will be forced to move outside. That will hurt the economy of Alaska. Most Srs are on fixed income and need this funding to live in comfort and dignity.

Mary Galpin is not a Sr. Citz but a concerned citizen, does not receive longevity and probably never will

Signed: Ronal Giordano, Board member to

Testifier Med Valley Sr. Houston, Ak

Representing (Optional) PO Box 518 Phyl Covert Palmer Ak 99645

Address 746-1146

Phone No.

RECEIVED

MAR 08 1997

S B

6 8

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

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

130 Seward Street, Suite 409
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2105

MEMORANDUM

February 1, 1997

SUBJECT: Sectional summary (SB 68)

TO: Senator Lyda Green
Attn: Craig Johnson

FROM: Tamara Brandt Cook
Director *TBC*

RECEIVED
FEB 03 1997
Ans'd.....

Here is the section summary you requested for SB 68, creating the Task Force on Privatization.

Sec. 1. Statement of legislature findings and the intent of the legislature to consider all reasonable methods to deal with the revenue shortfall.

Sec. 2. Establishes the Task Force on Privatization in the legislative branch and provides for membership.

Sec. 3. Makes per diem and travel expenses available to public Task Force members.

Sec. 4. Permits the Task Force to issue subpoenas and authorizes witness fees and reimbursement for travel expenses for subpoenaed witnesses. Permits any person charged with enforcement of state law to bring a witness before the Task Force if the witness refuses to attend. Permits the chair to administer an oath to a witness.

Sec. 5. Sets out duties of the Task Force. Requires the Task Force to submit by November 15, 1997 a written report of its findings and recommendations concerning state contracting policy and procedures and privatization of government functions in the departments of transportation, corrections, and health and social services. A second report is due a year later concerning privatization of government functions of state agencies not addressed in the first report.

Sec. 6. The Act is repealed December 1, 1998.

Sec. 7. Immediate effective date.

TBC:glc:lmb
97-024.lmb

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

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

130 Seward Street, Suite 409
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2105

MEMORANDUM

January 31, 1997

SUBJECT: Sectional summary (SB 68)

TO: Senator Jerry Ward
Attn: Craig W. Johnson

FROM: Tamara Brandt Cook
Director *TBC*

RECEIVED
FEB 05 1997
Ans'd.....

Here is the section summary you requested for SB 68, creating the Task Force on Privatization.

Sec. 1. Statement of legislature findings and the intent of the legislature to consider all reasonable methods to deal with the revenue shortfall.

Sec. 2. Establishes the Task Force on Privatization in the legislative branch and provides for membership.

Sec. 3. Makes per diem and travel expenses available to public Task Force members.

Sec. 4. Permits the Task Force to issue subpoenas and authorizes witness fees and reimbursement for travel expenses for subpoenaed witnesses. Permits any person charged with enforcement of state law to bring a witness before the Task Force if the witness refuses to attend. Permits the chair to administer an oath to a witness.

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Sec. 6. The Act is repealed December 1, 1998.

Sec. 7. Immediate effective date.

TBC:glc
97-037.glc



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Sponsor Statement Senate Bill 68

"An Act relating to the Task Force on Privatization;
and providing for an effective date"

RECEIVED
FEB 2 1987
Ans u.....

Privatization is the fundamental political and economic reassessment of the role of government and the private sector in the modern state. It is a variety of management techniques and activities encouraging more involvement of the private sector in providing government services. Markets are efficient only when they are competitive, however efficiency should not be government's only goal. Government must balance the pursuit of efficiency with effectiveness, while maintaining the confidence of the people it represents.

Senate Bill 68 was introduced to establish a task force that will review functions of state government that could easily be transferred to the private sector. The task force will have members from the public, legislative and executive branches of government.

This will be the first all encompassing look at privatizing governmental services in Alaska. Forty-eight other states, including Alaska, have privatized some governmental services. When enacted, this bill will evaluate which services could be provided more efficiently by the private sector as well as highlight those services that are better provided by the government. The report should provide a road map for reducing the size and cost of state government, without reducing service, while providing options for the future.

Senate Bill 68 will also look into the State's contracting procedures to make sure Alaskans are getting the most out of every contracting dollar spent.

This bill has been endorsed by the Alaska Trucking Association, Gold Belt Inc., and several others. Privatization of governmental services is one of the top priorities of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce.



RECEIVED
FEB 11 1997
Ans'd.....

February 11, 1997

DON VALESKO
Business Manager

VALERIE K. BAFFONE
Secretary/Treasurer

HEADQUARTERS
2510 Arctic Blvd
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
FAX (907) 279-7171
(907) 276-7211

2122 Airport Way
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
FAX (907) 456-1771
(907) 452-5024

710 West 9th Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801
FAX (907) 586-5757
(907) 586-6993

Senator Jerry Ward
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Senator Ward:

Public Employees Local 71 has looked at your proposed legislation for a Privatization Task Force, SB 68. We are willing to support SB68 but would like to see language to seat representatives from the affected labor organizations on the task force.

Local 71 believes that with fair representation from all concerned with privatization on the Task Force, the issue should be resolved.

Local 71 looks forward to working with the Task Force if SB68 is enacted.

Sincerely,

Don Etheridge, Business Representative

ALASKA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION, INC.

3443 Minnesota Drive • Anchorage, Alaska 99503 • PHONE (907) 276-1149 • FAX (907) 274-1946

RECEIVED

FEB 12 1997

Ans'd.....

February 12, 1997

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Frank Dillon. I am the Executive Director of Alaska Trucking Association, a 38 year old trade association, representing Alaska's truck users. We are testifying today in support of Senate Bill No. 68. We would like to thank the sponsor for his introduction of this bill and are hopeful that it will quickly pass through the legislative process and be enacted. Over the past 30 to 40 years government has taken on many roles that rightfully belong in the private sector. We believe that in certain areas privatization will provide efficiencies, cost savings, and improved service to the citizens of Alaska. We are aware of a number of examples throughout the United States where privatization has worked and we are also enthused by examples here in the state where privatization is working. One example of this is in the area of commercial driver's licensing. The division of motor vehicles has entered into agreement with some private companies to provide licensing services to commercial vehicle drivers. Currently ATA is also working with the division of motor vehicles to privatize the issuance of truck and trailer registration through the association. We believe there are many examples where privatization makes sense and again would ask that you pass this bill. Thank you very much for your consideration and we would be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Frank J. Dillon
Executive Director



CONTRACTING PROVISIONS OF CURRENT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS

UNIT:	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	SUPERVISORS	LABOR, TRADES, AND CRAFTS	PUBLIC SAFETY	AVTECH	CORRESPONDENCE STUDIES
	Feasibility study or operational analyses required before contracting unit work.	Formal feasibility study must address potential cost savings and other benefits.	Must conduct a cost efficiency study before contracting unit work that will result in layoff of unit member.	If decision to contract has potential of displacing members, must conduct feasibility study or review of operational analyses.	Formal feasibility study required before contracting unit work.	If decision to contract has potential of displacing members, must conduct formal feasibility study.
	Feasibility study or operational analyses must cover potential costs and benefits.	Formal feasibility study must include all costs, including wages, benefits, administrative costs, agency overhead, program supervision, and audits.	Cost efficiency study must show work can be performed with less cost before layoff can occur.	Feasibility study or review of operational analyses must address potential costs and benefits.	Formal feasibility study must address potential cost savings and other benefits.	Formal feasibility study must address potential cost savings and other benefits.
	Must notify union within two weeks of decision to initiate study or review operational analyses.	Formal feasibility study must also determine the cost of performing the work with members.	Contractor required to pay contractual hourly rates plus at least \$2.55 per hour in lieu of benefits.	Decision to contract unit work cannot precede feasibility study or review of operational analyses.	Decision to contract unit work cannot precede formal feasibility study.	Decision to contract unit work cannot precede formal feasibility study.

UNIT:	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	SUPERVISORS	LABOR, TRADES, AND CRAFTS	PUBLIC SAFETY	AVTECH	CORRESPONDENCE STUDIES
	Notice must include job classifications and work areas affected.	Must notify union within one week of decision to conduct a formal feasibility study, including job classifications and work areas affected.	Contractor must furnish certification of wages and/or certified cost of benefits upon written request.	Must notify union within 2 weeks of decision to initiate study or review operational analyses.	If contracting would displace members, must notify union of decision to conduct formal feasibility study, indicating work to be contracted.	Must notify union of decision to conduct formal feasibility study.
	Must notify union of results of feasibility study or review of operational analyses with all pertinent statistical and analytical information to be considered in contacting decision, including total cost savings.	Must notify union at least 30 days in advance of intent to issue bids where result would be displacement of member.		Notice must include job classifications and work areas affected.	Must notify union of results of feasibility study with all pertinent information considered in contacting decision.	After formal feasibility study must notify union at least 30 days in advance of intent to issue bids.

UNIT:	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	SUPERVISORS	LABOR, TRADES, AND CRAFTS	PUBLIC SAFETY	AVTECH	CORRESPONDENCE STUDIES
	Must notify union of final decision regarding contracting.	Notice must include all pertinent information upon which the decision to contract is based, including total cost savings anticipated.		Must notify union of results of feasibility study or review of operational analyses with all pertinent statistical and analytical information to be considered in contacting decision, including total cost savings.	After formal feasibility study must notify union at least 15 working days in advance of intent to issue bids.	During 30 day period, state cannot release any bids.
	If decision is to contract and will directly displace employees, must provide union with 30 days notice of intent.	During 30 day period, state cannot release any bids.		Must notify union of final decision regarding contracting.	During 15 working day period, state cannot release any bids.	During 30 day period, union will have opportunity to submit an alternate plan.
	Union may submit an alternate plan, if submitted within 15 days, plan must receive fair consideration.	During 30 day period, union will have opportunity to submit an alternate plan.		After formal feasibility study must notify union at least 30 days in advance of intent to issue bids if contract will result in layoff of members.	Union will have opportunity to submit an alternate plan.	State must give fair consideration to alternate plan.

UNIT:	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	SUPERVISORS	LABOR, TRADES, AND CRAFTS	PUBLIC SAFETY	AVTECH	CORRESPONDENCE STUDIES
	Placement of affected employees to be discussed during 30 day period.	State must give fair consideration to alternate plan.		Union may submit an alternate plan, if submitted within 15 days, plan must receive fair consideration.	State must give fair consideration to alternate plan.	No bargaining unit work may be contracted which results in layoff unless supported by the formal feasibility study.
	No employee can be laid off and work contracted unless feasibility study or review of operational analyses shows contracting costs less.	No bargaining unit work may be contracted which results in layoff unless the contracting action will cost less.		Placement of affected employees to be discussed during 30 day period.	No bargaining unit work may be contracted which results in layoff unless supported by the formal feasibility study.	
	Must make good faith effort to place employees elsewhere in state government.	Must make every effort to place employees elsewhere in state government.		No employee can be laid off and work contracted unless feasibility study or review of operational analyses shows contracting costs less.	Must make a good faith effort to find a laid off teacher a vacant teaching position in AVTECH or elsewhere in department of education.	
		Where members have been displaced, union may request cost effectiveness audits at state expense.		Must make good faith effort to place employees elsewhere in state government.		

S B

7 5



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

Senate

Rules Committee

State Capitol
Juneau, AK. 99801-1182

SPONSOR STATEMENT

CSSB 75 (L&C) - CPA Exam Qualifications

CSSB 75 proposes to change the application criteria for those planning to take the CPA examination in Alaska, now held every May and November. This bill will NOT change the test itself, nor will it change the requirements for licensure in Alaska.

The need for this legislation arises from the dramatic increase in foreign applicants who come to our state to sit for the CPA exam, most of whom will not live and practice in Alaska, and many of whom have no background in accounting. The unusual number of foreign applicants could substantially impact the Division of Occupational Licensing, and the licensing examiner, who is shared with two other boards.

Currently, our requirements call merely for a baccalaureate degree, not an accounting degree, nor any accounting experience. Ours are the lowest standards in the country. Previously, Montana, also with low requirements for application, raised its criteria by emergency order to stem the same problem. Where Alaska usually seats several dozen for the exam, the test being given in May, 1997 may have as many as eight-hundred candidates.

The Alaska State Board Of Public Accountancy uses the uniform certified public accounting examination, the same as used in every other jurisdiction in the country. With such a large number of casual applicants taking the test, issues of security for the national exam and possible liability arise.

Section 1 of CSSB 75 would institute new standards for those applying to take the CPA exam in Alaska. In addition to a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent, one would need an accounting

concentration of study, and either a minimum number of accounting credit hours, or one year of experience under the direct supervision of a CPA.

Section 2 of the bill would address a lesser and unrelated issue, that of allowing the use of the designation "EA" by enrolled agents. Enrolled agents are unlicensed accountants or tax practitioners who are enrolled by the Internal Revenue Service to engage in tax-related business. Official recognition of this professional designation must be made in statute.

Section 3 of CSSB 75 originally provided for an immediate effective date, however, the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee determined that there would be an adverse time impact on those signing up for the May, 1997 exam, and made June 1st the effective date. This would have our changes in place well ahead of the November, 1997 exam.

The bill is supported by the Alaska State Board of Public Accountancy, and the Alaska Society of Certified Public Accountants. If there are questions, contact Tim Benintendi at 3770.



JAN - 4 1997

ALASKA SOCIETY OF CPAs
341 W. TUDOR #105
ANCHORAGE, AK 99503
(907) 562-4334
800-478-4334
FAX (907) 562-4025

January 2, 1996

Charles Griffin, CPA
Chair, Alaska Board of Public Accountancy
Division of Occupational Licensing
P.O. Box 670
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear Mr. Griffin:

The Board of Directors of the Alaska Society of Certified Public Accountants has reviewed the statute and regulations proposed by the Board of Public Accountancy to increase the Alaskan requirements to sit for the CPA exam. We understand the recent developments which prompted your call for change. Several of our members were involved with the administration of the November 1996 exam. The tremendous increase in applicants did cause considerable problems. The ability of our state to administer the exam under conditions of high security must be a priority concern.

We believe the statute and regulations changes outlined in your proposal should be adopted. The statute change will give the Board the authority to regulate the exam through education and experience regulations. This will not only allow the Board to act in the current situation, but will also provide the statutory authority to react to future problems that might arise. The revised educational/experience regulations will bring our state into closer conformity with other jurisdictions with minimum impact on Alaskans who plan to sit for the exam. Alaskan students majoring in accounting will continue to be qualified to sit for the exam in the final semester of their baccalaureate programs. We believe your proposal will provide a practical and fair solution to our current exam administration problems.

The Board of Directors of the Alaska Society of Certified Public Accountants unanimously voted to support your proposal at our December 6, 1996 Board meeting and authorized this letter of public support. We stand ready to provide any additional support that might be necessary as this proposal moves through the legislative process.

On another matter, we are in receipt of the December 17, 1996 "Regulations Notice" from Regulation Specialist, Joanne Cummings regarding various other regulation changes including Quality Review regulations. We worked closely with you as these Quality Review regulations were drafted and are pleased to see them moving through your due process procedures. We continue to strongly support the adoptions of these Quality Review requirements.

Please contact us if we can be of any further assistance with regard to any of the matters referred to in this letter. We appreciate the opportunity to work with you as you strive to administer the Accountancy Statute and Regulations to protect the public interest.

Sincerely,

Alaska Society of CPAs

Alaska Society of Certified Public Accountants, Inc.

cc: Mark Schnieter

CHARLES R. GRIFFIN

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

P O. BOX 670 • PALMER, ALASKA 99645
TELEPHONE (907) 745-3239

February 4, 1997
VIA FAX 907-465-3756

Senator Tim Kelly, Chairman
Senate Rules Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 101
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Re: Senate Bill No. 75 (CPA Exam Qualifications)

Dear Chairman Kelly:

Thank you! - the Alaska State Board of Public Accountancy and I sincerely appreciate your valued assistance in introducing SB 75. This bill, amending only two sections of our Accountancy Act, will solve our current examination crisis - we are simply being overwhelmed by foreign examination applicants.

Alaska currently has the lowest standards for examination applicants in that we simply require a baccalaureate degree. Our current statutes do not require accounting courses or experience prior to taking the examination. And it is well settled that we cannot consider residency in establishing qualifications or fees.

Our Board was swamped by foreign (mostly Japanese) applicants for the November 1996 examination. We soon learned that the State of Montana, apparently the former state of choice, adopted emergency rules in May 1996 and for the November 1996 exam began requiring residency as well a degree with an accounting concentration. Our Board has been deluged by foreign applicants since the Montana rules were first noticed.

Our Board utilizes the uniform certified public examination which is offered each May and November by all of the U.S. accounting jurisdictions. It is a nondisclosed, secure examination and we are committed to administer it in Alaska. Under our current statutes, however, our Board counsel (AAG) advised us that we must simply accommodate all applicants who meet our requirements.

Thus for November 1996 we received 560 new applications and examined 507 candidates. We typically receive about 75 new applications and examine about 160 candidates. I enclose our examination statistics for 1995 and 1996 and you will clearly see the increase is staggering. We have already received over 100 additional new applications and are anticipating some 800+ candidates for the May 1997 exam.

We are extremely concerned that our current standards admit a very large number of candidates who will never be true candidates for licensure. A security breach could jeopardize this national examination, potentially subject our Board to liability for loss or damages, or prevent us from being able to offer the examination in the future.

Senator Tim Kelly, Chairman -2-
Senate Rules Committee
Alaska State Legislature

February 4, 1997

Re: Senate Bill No. 75 (CPA Exam Qualifications)

In addition, we are concerned that this volume of examination activity - processing applications, arranging sites, scheduling candidates, finding qualified proctors, and Board member site administration - is substantially impacting both our Licensing Examiner (whom we share with two other Boards) and the Division of Occupational Licensing. As a result, the service to Alaskan examination and licensing applicants, our licensees and the public is suffering.

Please note that Section 1 of the bill, repealing and reenacting AS 08.04.150, is not exclusionary. This bill does not change or increase the requirements for licensure in Alaska. This bill would only increase the qualifications required to take our examination to such an extent that it would exclude most of our foreign applicants. Alaska's accounting education requirement will still be among the lowest in the nation but we did not wish to set the requirement at the top and exclude many of our Alaskan applicants. We believe this bill will serve both the Board and all bona fide candidates for licensure.

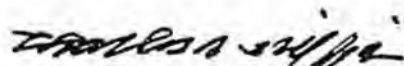
We also believe that this bill should not require a fiscal note in that our fee setting is reviewed biennially and the application and examination processes are consistently priced on a break even basis.

Section 2 of the bill is a minor statutory change required in order to allow "enrolled agents" to use the designation "EA". We have recognized the term "enrolled agent" in the Board's regulations. We clearly recognize that the use of "EA" is not misleading or deceptive in this context and is used by a number of unlicensed accountants or tax practitioners who are, in fact, enrolled to practice by the Internal Revenue Service. The use of the abbreviation "EA" is however governed by statute and we seek your legislative grace for this change.

These two provisions are unanimously and enthusiastically sought, endorsed and supported by the State Board of Public Accountancy as well as the Alaska Society of CPA's. I would also expect that Director Reardon of Occupational Licensing will be supportive. I again express the Board's appreciation for your time and effort in getting this legislation introduced.

We look forward to participating in the committee hearing process and will be pleased to respond should you or any of your fellow legislators have any questions or desire any additional information.

Very truly yours,



Charles R. Griffin, CPA, Chairman
Alaska State Board of Public Accountancy

ALASKA STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY
 EXAMINATION STATISTICS
 MAY 1995 THROUGH NOVEMBER 1996

	May-95	Nov-95	May-96	Nov-96
New Exam Applications Approved	<u>72</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>560</u>
Exam Candidates Scheduled	188	211	198	704
No Shows	<u>-38</u>	<u>-32</u>	<u>-31</u>	<u>-197</u>
Candidates Examined	<u>150</u>	<u>179</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>507</u>
Candidates Examined:				
Alaskan	87	89	91	94
Foreign	54	80	68	392
Out of State	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>21</u>
Total	<u>150</u>	<u>179</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>507</u>
Candidates Passed All 4 Parts	5.33%	6.14%	4.19%	5.52%
Candidates Failed All 4 Parts	37.33%	39.10%	41.31%	61.73%
Examination Section Pass Rates:				
AUD	21.32%	25.00%	25.85%	13.54%
LPR	18.32%	20.26%	24.67%	17.17%
FARE	36.58%	35.25%	33.07%	25.26%
ARE	36.58%	27.06%	23.25%	17.08%

Japanese count on taking CPA exam here

By Margaret Thomas
Staff writer, The Paper

State officials are scrambling to accommodate a sudden surge in the number of people planning to take the certified public accountant licensing exam in Alaska next month. And here's the weird part: Almost 80 percent of the applicants are Japanese.

Some 700 people have applied to take the two-day test in Alaska, with 295 of them scheduled to sit in Juneau. Organizers here have reserved the Centennial Hall ballroom to make room for the crowd. Last time the twice-yearly test was offered in Juneau, 15 people signed up.

The recent influx is a result of the prestige that Japanese businesses attach to passing

the U.S. exam, combined with an emergency change in Montana regulations that made Alaska the easiest place to qualify for the test. Now, Alaska's Board of Public Accountancy is pushing to close the door here, too.

The problem is that most of the foreign test takers have no intention of fulfilling up to three years of work experience required to become licensed, practicing CPAs in Alaska. Worse yet, the change in Montana law could make Alaska a target for "ringers" — those who just want a peek at the standardized test in order to help their clients cheat.

"Alaska currently has the lowest requirements for eligibility to sit for the exam,"

said Chuck Griffin, head of the state Public Accountancy Board. "The more people we let in who will have no ultimate chance of being licensed, it seems the greater our exposure is."

Officials at the state Division of Occupational Licensing worry too that application fees won't cover the cost of processing more paperwork, renting larger facilities and hiring extra proctors for administering the test to so many, said state licensing supervisor Judy Weske. "We will have to look at our costs for this exam and compare it to what we charge candidates."

Montana had the least-restrictive exam eligibility requirements in the country, until this year. Applicants were not required to

meet education, experience or residency requirements before taking the test, which is administered at the same time nationwide and in three U.S. protectorates.

More than 800 applicants signed up for the May test in Helena, said Sue Criswell, administrator for the Montana Board of Public Accountants. Many of them were from Japan and other foreign countries.

What made the crowd so daunting was the fact that national rules for administering the test had undergone a major change. In the past, the national organization that publishes the exam rewrote the questions every six months. Students and teachers were allowed to use old versions of the test to

Please turn to page 7

CPA exam

Continued from page 3

prepare. No more.

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants decided it would be fairer if the test was always the same. The change also would allow the institute to cut the costs of continually writing, pre-testing and evaluating new exam questions.

The result is a level of anxiety over security that is normally reserved for shipments of jewels, furs and bundles of big bills. Security guards now deliver the exams to testing sites in armored trucks.

Montana officials stationed armed guards at exits during that state's first "non-dispatched" test in May. Monitors were assigned to the bathrooms and chaperons accompanied anyone who wanted to step outside for a smoke during the 15½-hour, two-day test.

Officials in every test jurisdiction sweat over the possible consequences of a breach. The institute could declare exam scores invalid nationwide and have to begin the expensive process of developing a new test. The jurisdiction that allowed the leak could be held liable for those costs and lose its authorization to give future exams.

Once Montana officials understood the implications, they moved quickly to cull candidates who have no intention of getting

licensed. The state board approved emergency regulations requiring applicants to complete a minimum number of accounting and other business credits before taking the test.

Overnight, there was a new reason for foreigners to come to Alaska. A bachelor's degree in any subject is all that's required to take the test here. "Word travels fast among the different nationalities," said Criswell. "They publicize it all over the country."

Representatives of state and national CPA organizations are unclear about why the Japanese and other foreigners value a versing in U.S. tax law. There are probably a variety of reasons, said Martha Kautz of the City-based National Association of State Boards of Accountancy. "It's a mark of status to be able to pass the exam, whether you actually

plan to practice in the U.S. or not."

State licensing examiner Steve Snyder knew he was in for it when Tokyo's Tanoramon Accounting School phoned to request 60 applications for the Alaska CPA exam last spring. Calls from several other Japanese accounting schools followed. The din of desk clerks shouting half-speed English into the phone became common at the division's Juneau office this summer and soon an avalanche of applications threatened to bury Snyder.

"It's a lot more overwhelming," said Snyder of his job these days. "I don't have a lot of time to do other things that need to be done."

Division director Catherine Reardon has reassigned a half-time employee to help Snyder dig out. Division officials also have contacted the state attorney general's office for an opinion on whether it's legal to charge foreign candidates more than Americans to take the test.

"They're not supporting the superstructure that everyone else pays for," said Reardon. "We're protecting our licensees from carrying extra costs."

The Alaska Supreme Court already has mixed state residency requirements, but the Alaska CPA board is devising another strategy for diverting the stampede, said

chairman Griffin. Board members will petition the Legislature to add new exam eligibility requirements — they're suggesting 15 semester hours in accounting subjects, or a year of relevant work experience.

Griffin doesn't anticipate trouble, but it's unlikely a new law and matching regulations could be in effect before test time in May. Not everyone is in a hurry.

The Westmark Juneau, next to the Centennial Hall test site, is already more than three-quarters full for Nov. 6-7. Admits Weske. "It's certainly great for the Juneau economy."

THE PAPER
JUNEAU
10-4-96

Accounting Consultants of Alaska, Inc.

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February 10, 1997


To: Senator Tim Kelly
(907) 465-3822 (FAX 907-465-3756)

Dear Tim:

I wish to inform you that I am in support of SB75 and would appreciate your support also. Last year I helped proctor the CPA exam in Anchorage and noted that we were deluged with foreign applicants. It is my understanding that this bill would not unreasonably restrict local applicants from taking the exam but would eliminate those not serious in obtaining their CPA certificate for practicing in the US.

Thank you for your support. Let me know when you get back to Anchorage.

Cordially,



Kirk W. Brown, CPA

cc Chuck Griffin
745-3239 (FAX 745-6038)



Alaska Society of Independent Accountants

Organized September 1, 1972

3055 College Rd • Fairbanks, Alaska 99709 • (907) 561-1302 • (907) 456-3330

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Fax 456-8180

Mr. Charles Griffin, CPA
Chair, Alaska State Board of Public Accountancy
Division of Occupational Licensing
Department of Commerce and Economic Development
P.O. Box 670
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear Mr. Griffin:

The Board of Directors of the Alaska Society of Independent Accountants has reviewed Senate Bill No. 75 relating to the qualifications to sit for the CPA exam and the use of the abbreviation EA as it related to the designation "Enrolled Agent" as defined by the Internal Revenue Service.

We understand the need to increase the Alaskan requirements to sit for the CPA exam and that this statute will bring our state into closer conformity with other jurisdictions. We do not believe that this bill will adversely affect the qualified Alaskans who wish to sit for the CPA exam.

We are very much in favor of the change to Sec. 08.04.540 relating to the use of "EA" as it relates to an individual who is enrolled to practice before the Internal Revenue Service. As I am sure you are aware, many of our members are enrolled to practice before the Internal Revenue Service and have the designation "Enrolled Agent" and "EA".

The Board of Directors of the Alaska Society of Accountants unanimously voted to support Senate Bill No. 75 and authorized this letter of support at a Special Board Meeting called, by telephone, on February 4, 1997. If we can be of any additional assistance as this bill moves through the legislature, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Sharon A. Blackwell, President
Alaska Society of Independent Accountants

CC: REX CRUSE

SB

76

Alaska State Legislature

SENATE DISTRICT 1

Bayshore	Abbott Loop
Campbell	Bear Valley
Dimond	Girdwood
Independence Park	Glen Alps
Klatt	Hillside
Old Seward	Huffman O'Malley
Southport	Indian
Taku	Portage
	Rabbit Creek



716 WEST 4TH AVENUE, SUITE 530
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(907) 258-8194

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(907) 465-2995 1-800-365-2995

SENATOR SEAN PARNELL

SPONSOR STATEMENT

SENATE BILL 76

"An Act relating to results-based government and the state budget"

SB 76 will enact results based government, to better serve Alaskans. SB 76 revises the Executive Budget Act to require the Legislative and Executive Branches to more clearly focus on results for Alaskans through policies established by the legislature and executed by the governor.

Specifically, the legislature will establish policy by issuing mission statements and desired results for each state agency to achieve. To accomplish this, the legislature will identify desired results, set priorities for each agency, assign accountability, and require methods for measuring, reporting and evaluating results. These results will be reported quarterly to the legislature for continuity and effective oversight.

The governor, through the Office of Management and Budget, executes, coordinates and manages each agency's efforts to achieve the legislature's mission and desired results. The governor shall also through discussion with the public, its employees and management teams make recommendations for future mission statements and desired results for consideration by the legislature.

If passed, SB 76 will enable government to be more responsive to the needs and priorities of Alaskans. I respectfully request your support for SB 76 which will begin "Results Based Government" in Alaska.

ARTICLE VI

NATURAL RESOURCES

Section 1. The several sums of money herein specified, or so much thereby as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any funds in the State Treasury not otherwise appropriated, or out of special funds as indicated, for the support, maintenance, or improvement of the designated natural resources agencies.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

	For the Years Ending	
	August 31, 1998	August 31, 1999
A. Goal: MARKETS & PUBLIC HEALTH		
To enable Texas farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses to expand profitable markets for their agricultural products while protecting public health and our state's natural resources.		
Outcomes:		
Percent Increase from the 1996 Level in the Number of Marketing Opportunities for Texas Farmers, Ranchers and Agribusinesses	15%	22%
Percent Reduction from the 1994 Level in the Number of Pesticide-Related Violations	7%	7%
A.1.1. Strategy: GENERATE MARKETS	\$ 6,775,971	\$ 6,775,971
Generate marketing opportunities for Texas farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses.		
Outputs:		
Number of Companies Enrolled in TDA Marketing Programs	1,310	1,310
Number of Acres Inspected	190,000	190,000
A.1.2. Strategy: REGULATE PESTICIDE USE	\$ 4,956,604	\$ 4,956,604
Regulate pesticide use through registration, certification, education and enforcement.		
Outputs:		
Number of Licenses and Certificates Issued to Pesticide Applicators	14,350	14,350
Number of Pesticide Complaint Investigations Conducted	250	250
Efficiencies:		
Average Cost per Pesticide Applicator Licensed	41.1	38.8
A.1.3. Strategy: INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT	\$ 2,012,281	\$ 2,012,281
Assist farmers with integrated pest management practices to reduce pesticide use.		
Outputs:		
Hours Spent Informing Producers and Surveying Cotton for Compliance with Cotton Stalk Destruction Deadlines	14,000	14,000
Number of Inspections to Verify Compliance for Organic or Other Crop Production Certification Programs	839	864
A.1.4. Strategy: CERTIFY PRODUCE	\$ 289,467	\$ 289,467
Certify fruits, vegetables and peanuts to enhance their marketability.		

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
(Continued)

Outputs:		
Number of Pounds of Fruits, Vegetables, Peanuts and Nuts Inspected (in billions)	2.3	2.3
Total, Goal A: MARKETS & PUBLIC HEALTH	\$ 14,034,323	\$ 14,034,323
B. Goal: ENFORCE STANDARDS		
To protect consumers by establishing and enforcing standards for agricultural commodities		
Outcomes:		
Percent of Seed Samples Found to be in Full Compliance With State and Federal Standards	97%	98%
B.1.1. Strategy: NURSERY/FLORAL REGULATION	\$ 1,971,466	\$ 1,971,466
Inspect and register nursery and floral production and retail outlets.		
Outputs:		
Number of Nursery and Floral Establishment Inspections Conducted	10,000	10,000
Number of Stop Sales and Notices of Noncompliance Issued	350	350
B.1.2. Strategy: VERIFY SEED QUALITY	\$ 1,751,216	\$ 1,751,216
Verify that farmers, ranchers and home gardeners receive the quality and type of seeds desired.		
Outputs:		
Number of Seed Samples Analyzed	23,000	23,000
Number of Enforcement Actions Taken	150	125
B.1.3. Strategy: VERIFY EGG QUALITY	\$ 426,177	\$ 426,175
Inspect chicken egg producer, dealer-wholesaler and retail establishments to verify and enforce compliance with state and federal standards for quality. License egg packers, wholesalers, and distributors.		
Outputs:		
Number of Egg Producer, Dealer, Wholesaler, and Retailer Samples Taken or Inspections Conducted	15,000	15,000
B.1.4. Strategy: COMMODITY WAREHOUSES	\$ 657,519	\$ 657,519
Verify that commodity warehouses are capable of properly storing and handling commodities. Assist producers and sellers of Texas grown citrus and vegetables recover monies owed to them.		
Outputs:		
Number of Agricultural Commodity Warehouse Inspections, Re-Inspections and Audits Conducted	700	700
Number of Licenses, Permits and Registrations Issued to Agricultural Commodity Warehouses	500	500
Efficiencies:		
Average Cost per Inspection/Reinspection of Agricultural Commodity Warehouses	426	426
Total, Goal B: ENFORCE STANDARDS	\$ 4,806,378	\$ 4,816,376
C. Goal: ENSURE PROPER MEASUREMENT		
To increase the likelihood that goods offered for sale to Texas consumers are properly measured, priced and marketed.		

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
(Continued)

Outcomes:		
Percent of Total Weights and Measures Inspections Conducted Resulting in Finding of Full Compliance with State and Federal Standards	98%	98%
C.1.1. Strategy: INSPECT MEASURING DEVICES	\$ 2,652,485	\$ 2,652,485
Inspect weighing and measuring devices and remove inaccurately measured, priced or marketed goods from sale.		
Outputs:		
Number of Weights and Measures Inspections Conducted	105,500	105,500
Number of Stop Sales and Notices of Noncompliance Issued	7,700	7,400
Grand Total, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	\$ 21,493,186	\$ 21,493,184
Method of Financing:		
General Revenue Fund	\$ 19,853,548	\$ 19,853,546
Earned Federal Funds	184,147	184,147
<u>General Revenue - Dedicated</u>		
Young Farmer Loan Guarantee Account No. 5002	100,000	100,000
Federal Funds	818,094	818,094
<u>Other Funds</u>		
Farm and Ranch Finance Program Fund Account No. 575	112,221	112,221
Appropriated Receipts	174,399	174,399
Texas Agricultural Fund No. 683	240,777	240,777
Interagency Contracts	10,000	10,000
Subtotal, Other Funds	\$ 537,397	\$ 537,397
Total, Method of Financing	\$ 21,493,186	\$ 21,493,184
Number of Full-time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	502.5	502.5
Schedule of Exempt Positions		
Commissioner of Agriculture, Group 4	\$ 92,217	\$ 92,217
Deputy Commissioner	78,007	78,007
1. Capital Budget. Funds appropriated above may be expended for capital budget items as listed below. The amounts identified for each item may be adjusted or expended on other capital expenditures, subject to the aggregate dollar restrictions on capital budget expenditures provided in the General Provisions of this Act.		
	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
Out of the General Revenue Fund:		
a Acquisition of Information Resource Technologies		
(1) Computer Equipment/Software	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
(Continued)

b. Transportation Items		
(1) Fleet Vehicles	\$ 200,000	\$ 300,000
Total, Capital Budget	\$ 300,000	\$ 400,000

2. **Appropriation of Receipts: Yardage Fees.** Fifty percent of the total amount of yardage fee revenue collected by the Texas Department of Agriculture in each fiscal year pursuant to the Agriculture Code, Sec. 146.021, is hereby appropriated to the department for the biennium beginning September 1, 1997, for the purpose of paying livestock export facility lease and maintenance expenses. The remaining fifty percent of the total yardage fee revenue collected in each fiscal year shall be transferred to the unobligated portion of the General Revenue Fund and is not subject to appropriation by this provision or by Article IX of this Act. Amounts appropriated pursuant to this provision are included above in Strategy Item A.1.1., General Markets, and are identified above in the method of finance as Appropriated Receipts in an estimated amount of \$97,552 for each fiscal year.

Any unexpended and unobligated balances remaining as of August 31, 1997 in the appropriation made by rider provision 2, House Bill 1, Seventy-fourth Legislature, Regular Session, on page VI-4, are hereby reappropriated for the biennium beginning September 1, 1997 for the identical purposes.

3. **Appropriation: Land Donations.** The Department of Agriculture is hereby authorized to lease, and/or accept the donation of land or the use of land from either governmental agencies, private firms, corporations, or individuals to be used in connection with the performance of its various responsibilities and programs.
4. **Appropriation: Publication Fees.** The department is hereby appropriated any subscription fees, royalties, advertising revenues, or charges collected for publications, services or products produced by the department, subject to any restrictions on publications fee appropriations contained elsewhere in this Act.
5. **Fee Increase Authority and Limitation.** For the purpose of implementing the intent of the Legislature, that the department collect fee amounts which offset, when feasible, the direct and indirect costs of administering its regulatory activities, the department is hereby authorized to and shall increase the fees by a percentage sufficient to offset costs associated with its regulatory activities. It is the intent of the Legislature that the cost offset percentage shall be 100 percent. The following activities are exempt from this requirement: Seed Testing, Quarantine Enforcement/Education; Piece Rate Crop Survey; Pest Management Program; Agriculture Hazard Communication Act; Boll Weevil Control Act; Predatory Management Program.
6. **Pay for Regular Compensatory Time: Livestock Export Pen Operations.** It is expressly provided that the Department of Agriculture, to the extent permitted by law, may pay FLSA nonexempt employees in classified positions who are stationed at Department of Agriculture livestock export pens for compensatory time hours on a straight-time basis when the taking of compensatory time off would be disruptive to normal working activities and other critical functions relating to livestock export pen operations.
7. **Transfer Authority.** Notwithstanding limitations on appropriation transfers contained in the General Provisions of this Act, the Department of Agriculture is hereby authorized to direct agency resources, and transfer such amounts appropriated above between strategy line items.
8. **Appropriation: Young Farmer Loan Guarantee Program.** Out of the Young Farmer Loan Guarantee Fund, the Texas Agriculture Finance Authority is hereby appropriated for the biennium beginning September 1, 1997, all necessary amounts required to cover any defaults on loans provided under Chapter 253, Texas Agriculture Code.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
(Continued)

9. **Appropriation: Fair Park Structure Restoration.** The Texas Department of Agriculture is hereby appropriated \$1,974,600 from the General Revenue Fund for the biennium beginning September 1, 1997 to be used solely for restoration of historically significant structures within the National Historic District at Fair Park.
10. **Appropriation: Earned Federal Funds.** The Department of Agriculture is hereby appropriated all earned federal funds received during the biennium beginning with the effective date of this Act that are in addition to those earned federal funds specified in the method of financing above.
11. **Unexpended Balances.** Any unexpended balances as of August 31, 1998 in the appropriations made herein to the Department of Agriculture are hereby reappropriated for the same purpose for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 1998.
12. **Appropriation: Texas-Israel Exchange Program.** Any unexpended balances remaining as of August 31, 1997 in appropriations made to the Department of Agriculture, are hereby reappropriated to the department for fiscal year 1998 to fund the Texas-Israel Exchange program in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.
13. **Contingency Appropriation for Senate Bill 665.** Contingent upon the enactment of Senate Bill 665 or similar legislation relating to regulation of motor fuels containing ethanol or methanol by the Seventy-fifth Legislature, Regular Session, the Department of Agriculture is hereby appropriated \$412,733 for fiscal year 1998 and \$355,137 for fiscal year 1999 out of additional revenues collected pursuant to Senate Bill 665 for the purpose of implementing that Act. The department is authorized to transfer the appropriation made pursuant to this provision to the appropriate strategy items listed above.
- † 14. **Contingency Appropriation for Senate Bill 1355.** Contingent upon the enactment of Senate Bill 1355 or similar legislation relating to regulation of retail stores by the Seventy-fifth Legislature, Regular Session, the Department of Agriculture is hereby appropriated \$418,333 for fiscal year 1998 and \$227,561 for fiscal year 1999 out of additional revenues collected pursuant to Senate Bill 1355 for the purpose of implementing that Act. The department is authorized to transfer the appropriation made pursuant to this provision to the appropriate strategy items listed above.
15. **Contingency Appropriation Reduction for Senate Bill 1124.** Contingent upon the enactment of Senate Bill 1124 or similar legislation relating to the regulation of aquaculture by the Seventy-fifth Legislature, Regular Session, appropriations out of the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Agriculture in Strategy item A.1.1., General Markets, are hereby reduced \$6,500 for fiscal year 1998 and \$6,500 for fiscal year 1999.

† See Veto Proclamation.

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LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

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

130 Seward Street, Suite 409
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2105


MEMORANDUM

March 24, 1997

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary of SB 81. (Immunization records)

TO: Senator Lyda Green
Attn: Shelton

FROM: Terri Lauterbach
Legislative Counsel



You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.

As a preliminary matter, please note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. Since you have not asked any specific legal questions about the bill, this summary is brief. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, let me know.

Section 1. Provides an exception to the confidentiality provision relating to medical review organizations so that the infant mortality review committee can disclose children's immunization records under the circumstances specified in sec. 2 of the bill.

Section 2. Requires immunization records to accompany the death certificate for a child who dies when under the age of seven. Specifies who should supply the information.

Section 3. Applicability section.

TML:glc
97-208.glc

BRIEFING PAPER:
COLLECTION OF IMMUNIZATION RECORDS OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE DIED
February 25, 1997

Proposed legislation would establish new requirements for collection of immunization records on all children under the age of seven who die. The data required to be collected include all vaccines received by the child; the date(s), name, and type of each vaccine received; and the lot number, batch number, and manufacturer for each vaccine administered. The data are to be obtained by the funeral director and attached to the death certificate.

This legislation will require a considerable amount of new paperwork to collect information that will be difficult, if not impossible, to use in a meaningful way. Because almost all children are vaccinated, almost all children under the age of seven who die (approximately 150 children per year) will be covered.

The parents of a recently deceased child are under considerable stress, and many will not have readily available a copy of their child's immunization record. They may face considerable difficulty in trying to obtain the required information because much of the data (e.g., vaccine lot number and batch number) is not routinely recorded on the child's personal vaccination record.

In recent years, the recommended childhood immunization schedule has become increasingly complicated. By the time a child reaches the age of seven, he/she should have received at least 20 injections, and many will have received even more. Given the high degree of mobility of Alaska's citizens, particularly in those parts of the state with large proportions of military or fishing industry-related populations, the likelihood that a child will have received all of his/her immunizations in one location is small. Many vaccines will have been administered by different providers in different locations in Alaska, in other states, and even in foreign countries. Therefore, funeral directors will be faced with trying to determine both where a child's immunizations were received and how to obtain the required information from many different sources. Even if all of this information is known, a funeral director may not be in a position to obtain the information; a health record may not be available, or the facility may require the parent's written consent to release the immunization history. In spite of these difficulties, a death certificate must be filed within three days; it is hard to see how this information could be obtained in a timely fashion.

Finally, the data collected would not contribute to valid scientific research or understanding of vaccine-related side effects:

- Unfortunately, infants die for many reasons unrelated to vaccination, such as infectious diseases, congenital defects and metabolic disorders. Chance alone dictates that infant deaths will occur from these, and for other reasons, after vaccination. Almost all infants are vaccinated during the first year of life. Therefore, **any infant with a medical illness or who dies is likely to have been vaccinated earlier in life.** Since vaccinations are usually administered at ages 2, 4, and 6 months, a statistically measurable chance of any event, death or otherwise, can occur within 24 hours of vaccination by coincidence alone.
- The vast majority of vaccine adverse events are minor and temporary, like a sore arm or mild fever. More serious adverse events occur rarely; some are so rare that risk cannot be accurately assessed. As to vaccines causing death, there are **so few deaths that could plausibly be attributed to vaccines that it is hard to assess the risk statistically.**
- The concept that DTP causes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is a myth which developed because a moderate proportion of SIDS deaths occur in children who have recently been vaccinated with DTP; on the surface, this seems to point toward a causal connection. But this logic is faulty; **one might as well say that eating bread causes car crashes, since most drivers who crash their cars could probably be shown to have eaten bread within the past 24 hours.** If you consider that most SIDS deaths occur during the same range of ages when 3 shots of DTP are given, you would expect DTP shots to precede a fair number of SIDS deaths simply by chance. In fact, a number of well-controlled studies have indicated that the SIDS deaths (within the study populations) would have occurred even if no vaccinations had been given. In fact, **in several of the studies children who had recently gotten a DTP shot were *less* likely to get SIDS.**
- **No deaths caused by anaphylaxis following DTP vaccination** have been reported to CDC since the inception of vaccine-adverse-events reporting began in 1978, a period during which more than 80 million doses of publicly purchased DTP vaccine were administered.
- All deaths reported to the national Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) are evaluated and additional information is sought by the FDA. The deaths have been found to be related to a wide variety of causes; most importantly, **no specific, clinical syndrome has been identified as one might expect if these deaths had the same cause, i.e., a vaccine reaction.** In consideration of this, a 1994 Institute of Medicine report indicated that the "vast majority of deaths reported to VAERS are temporally but not causally related to vaccination."
- Although no one can guarantee that the vaccines (or any medications) are totally without risk, it is important to look at both the risks and the benefits of vaccine use. **The risks of NOT being vaccinated are much greater than the reverse.** If there were no vaccines, there would be many more cases of disease, and along with them, more serious side effects, including death.

- A child is far more likely to be seriously injured by a vaccine preventable disease than by any vaccine. While any serious injury or death caused by vaccines is too many, it is also clear that the benefits of vaccination greatly outweigh the slight risk, and that many, many more injuries and deaths would occur without them. The following comparison of the risk from disease with the risk from the vaccines that protect against them can give us an idea of the benefits we get from vaccinating our children.

Risk from Disease vs. Risk from Vaccines	
Disease	Vaccines
Measles Pneumonia = 1 in 20 Encephalitis = 1 in 2,000 Death = 1 in 3,000 Mumps Encephalitis = 1 in 300 Rubella Congenital Rubella Syndrome = 1 in 4	MMR Encephalitis or severe allergic reaction = 1 in 1,000,000
Diphtheria Death = 1 in 20 Tetanus Death = 3 in 100 Pertussis Pneumonia = 1 in 8 Encephalitis = 1 in 20 Death = 1 in 200	DTP Continuous crying, then full recovery = 1 in 100 Convulsions or shock, the full recovery = 1 in 1,750 Acute encephalopathy = 0-10.5 in 1,000,000 Death = None proven <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> Information compiled by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC, Atlanta) </div>

- Even one serious adverse effect in a million doses of vaccine cannot be justified if there is no benefit from the vaccination. But an analysis of the benefit and risk of DTP immunization, for example, has shown that without an immunization program there could be a 71-fold increase in cases of pertussis and a nearly 4-fold increase in deaths due to pertussis in the United States.
- A risk-benefit analysis has been performed for the U.S. to compare the outcomes with or without a vaccination program using a hypothetical cohort of 1 million children from birth to 6 years of age who received and did not receive pertussis vaccination. Without a program, the estimated annual number of residual defects from encephalitis (both vaccine and disease induced) would decrease from 54 to 29 cases. However, the estimated annual deaths from pertussis would increase more than 10-fold, from 44 to 457.

- The experiences of other countries are useful in evaluating the value of vaccination.

In the mid-70s, the use of pertussis vaccine was greatly reduced in **Great Britain** because of fear about the vaccine. The effect was dramatic and immediate. A drop in pertussis vaccination in 1974 was followed by an epidemic of more than 100,000 cases of pertussis and 36 deaths by 1978.

In **Japan**, pertussis vaccination was used nationwide by 1950. By 1974, pertussis incidence had dropped from 100 cases to 1 case per 100,000 population. However, in the last half of the 1970s, vaccine utilization in Japan markedly decreased after two deaths occurred following pertussis immunization. A major epidemic of pertussis ensued, with an increase in incidence rate to 11.5 per 100,000 in 1977, and an increase in the annual number of deaths from an average of less than 5 for the years 1970-1974 to an average of 32 during 1977-1979.

Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS)

- VAERS was created as part of the National Childhood Injury Act of 1986. The system is one method used to monitor vaccine safety.
- Since 1990, VAERS report forms and information have been mailed annually to all U.S. physicians who are likely to administer vaccines. The Alaska Immunization Program has required the use of VAERS reports by all providers participating in the state's Universal Vaccine Distribution System.
- **Strengths of VAERS:**
 - ◊ provides information on the number of adverse events reported nationwide
 - ◊ permits collection and analysis of vaccine-specific and lot-specific information
 - ◊ potentially identifies risk factors for adverse events that may be contraindications to additional doses
 - ◊ serves as a sentinel for the detection of either previously unreported vaccine adverse events or unusual increases in reported events
- **Limitations of VAERS:**
 - ◊ describes only the number of events reported, without placing in context of number of vaccines given
 - ◊ cannot track the rate of similar events occurring in individuals who were not recently vaccinated
 - ◊ cannot in itself establish causation
- **A VAERS report does NOT mean that the vaccine caused the adverse event.**
 - (a) The reporting system is "open" to all reports that an individual/provider wishes to make.
 - (b) The report indicates simply that an event was temporally associated with receipt of a vaccine -- NOT that the vaccine necessarily caused the event.
- The small number of VAERS reports should be taken into context within the number of doses of vaccine delivered to Alaska's children. Each year 50-60,000 doses of vaccine are given to Alaska children <9 years of age.

**Number of Reports to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)
for Children <age 7, Alaska, 1994-96**

	Minor or Transient Reaction	Serious* or >1 month Duration
1994	20	3
1995	12	2
1996	10	6

* Serious event = requires hospitalization or medical follow-up

Review of "Serious" Adverse Events

	Age of Child	Vaccines Received	Event	Outcome
1994	8 weeks	OPV Hib DTP	<i>9 hours after vaccination</i> - became limp and cyanotic; hospitalized for observation	Fully recovered
	2 months	OPV Hib DTP	<i>6 hours after vaccination</i> - continuous crying, 102° fever; observed overnight	Fully recovered
1995	18 months	OPV DTP	<i>18.5 hours after vaccination</i> - 1 seizure, fever > 100°; not hospitalized	Fully recovered
	16 months	MMR DTP	<i>9 days after vaccination</i> - seizures for 2 hours; hospitalized	Fully recovered
	2 months	OPV Hib DTP	<i>27 hours after vaccination</i> - afebrile seizures, 5-6/day; hospitalized	Not resolved
1996	17 months	MMR DTP	<i>8 days after vaccination</i> - fever of 104°; unresponsive; diagnosed with pneumonia	Fully recovered
	4.5 months	Tetramune OPV Hep B	<i>5 minutes after vaccination</i> - high pitched screaming; vomiting; fever; diarrhea; swelling at site	Fully recovered
	19 months	Tetramune OPV/MMR Hep B	<i>6 days after vaccination</i> - fever, vomiting, rash	Fully recovered
	5 years	DTaP MMR OPV	<i>30 minutes after vaccination</i> - fainted	Fully recovered
	2 months	DPT OPV Hib	<i>4 hours after vaccination</i> - high pitched, inconsolable crying	Fully recovered
	5 months	DTP OPV Hib	<i>48 hours after vaccination</i> - 104° fever; pneumococcal meningitis; (VERY unlikely related to shots)	Fully recovered

CONCLUSION:

Logistic problems make it unlikely that accurate and valid information will be collected through this approach. Little benefit in understanding or preventing side effects from vaccination would be gained. The burden on funeral directors and health facilities to obtain these data would be great. Bereaved parents would be stressed with an additional burden at one of the most difficult times in their lives.

For more information, the following individuals may be reached at (907) 269-8000:

John Middaugh, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist

Laurel Wood, MPA
Immunization Program Manager

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SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS FOR SENATE BILL 87: ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS

Section 1.

Extends the sunset date to 2001. As introduced, the sunset date would have been 2003, the Labor & Commerce Committee agreed that four years is appropriate for sunset of this board.

Section 2.

L&C Committee accepted the change requested by the Alaska Professional Design Council and the Architects, Engineers and Land Surveyors Board to increase the size of the board to 10 members, adding a land surveyor seat. The request also specified that one of the engineer positions be an electrical or mechanical engineer to ensure that the board has a person with the appropriate background to review those applications. The L&C Committee agreed.

Sections 3 and 5.

The AELS Board has not used the terms "president, vice president" for many years. The appropriate terms "chair and vice-chair" were substituted here and in Section 5. Also, in Section 3, since the board has been increased to 10, five is no longer a quorum. The board then is subject to AS 08.01.030 "A majority of the membership... constitutes a quorum".

Section 4.

Previous language required exams for architects, engineers and land surveyors to be given at least two times/year. The land surveyor exam is not a national exam and the number of candidates do not justify administering it twice a year. The amended language leaves the board the flexibility to administer tests MORE than once a year, as necessary for engineers and architects, and to deal with the changing complexities of the engineering and architects exams through regulation.

Section 6.

Since statutes were changed to require boards to assess fees to cover the cost of their operation, the Division of Occupational Licensing has maintained the records stated here. The Board has not been complying with these statute references and requested them removed. The audit agreed with this recommendation.

Section 7.

Transitional provision makes it clear that the changes in SB 87 do not affect current members of the AELS Board, but as the engineer seats come open, one will be designated "electrical or mechanical engineer".

Section 8.

Effective date clause.

March 16, 1997

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE REGULATIONS OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
BOARD OF ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, AND LAND SURVEYORS

Notice is given that the Board of Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors, under the authority of AS 08.48.101, 08.48.171, 08.48.201, and 08.48.221, proposes to amend and adopt regulations in Title 12 of the Alaska Administrative Code, dealing with verification of work experience and site adaptation of drawings, to implement, interpret, and make specific AS 08.48.101, 08.48.171, 08.48.201, and 08.48.221, including:

1. 12 AAC 36.066, Verification of Land Surveyor Work Experience, is a new section that establishes a procedure for the department to hold completed work experience forms for a person who has not yet applied for registration. This section also clarifies the requirements for acceptable proof of work experience for applicants for land surveyor registration.
2. 12 AAC 36.195, Site Adaptation of Drawings, is a new section that establishes the standards that a registrant must follow when site adapting design documents prepared by others.

Notice is also given that the Department of Commerce and Economic Development, under the authority of AS 08.01.065 and AS 08.48.265 proposes to amend and adopt regulations in Title 12 of the Alaska Administrative Code dealing with a file opening fee, including:

1. 12 AAC 02.110, Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors, is amended to add a new fee for opening a file for the retention of completed work verification forms.

Notice is also given that any person interested may present written comments relevant to the proposed action, including the potential costs to private persons of complying with the proposed action, by submitting written comments by mail, fax, or e-mail to:

JoAnne Cummings, Regulations Specialist
Department of Commerce and Economic Development
Division of Occupational Licensing
P O Box 110806
Juneau, AK 99811-0806
Fax: (907) 465-2974
e-mail: joanne_cummings@commerce.state.ak.us

Written comments must be received at the address above no later than **April 18, 1997**.

Additionally, any interested person may present oral or written comments relevant to the proposed action, including the potential costs to private persons of complying with the proposed action, at a

hearing to be held on May 8, 1997, beginning at 10:30 a.m., at the Holiday Inn, Ketchikan Room, 239 West 4th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska.

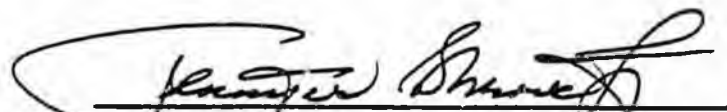
If you are a person with a disability who may need a special accommodation in order to participate in the process on the proposed regulations, please contact JoAnne Cummings at (907) 465-2537 no later than April 4, 1997 to make any necessary arrangements.

This action is not expected to require an increased appropriation.

Copies of the proposed regulations may be obtained by writing to the mail, fax, or e-mail address above or by telephoning (907) 465-2537.

After the close of the public comment period, the Department of Commerce and Economic Development and the Board of Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors will either adopt these or other proposals dealing with the same subject, without further notice, or decide to take no action on them. The language of the final regulations may vary from that of the proposed regulations. You should comment during the time allowed if your interests could be affected.

Date: March 11, 1997



Jennifer Strickler, Administrative Manager
Division of Occupational Licensing

CHAPTER 36. STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION
FOR ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, AND LAND SURVEYORS.

(Words underlined indicate language being added; words [CAPITALIZED AND BRACKETED] indicate language being deleted. Complete new sections are not underlined.)

12 AAC 36 is amended by adding a new section to read:

12 AAC 36.066. VERIFICATION OF LAND SURVEYOR WORK EXPERIENCE. (a)

In support of an application for examination or registration as a land surveyor, an applicant shall arrange for proof of the work experience required in 12 AC 36.064 and 12 AAC 36.065 to be submitted to the board. Proof of work experience must be on a form prescribed by the board and submitted directly to the board by the employer who is verifying the applicant's experience.

(b) The department will open a file for retention of completed work verification forms for an individual who has not yet submitted an application for registration as a land surveyor if the individual

(1) submits a written request to open a work verification file;

(2) pays the file opening fee established in 12 AAC 02.110.

(c) The department will maintain a work verification file for five years from the date that an individual meets the requirements in (b) of this section. At the end of five years, an individual may request that the department maintain a work verification file for an additional five years by meeting the requirements in (b) of this section.

(d) A work verification form received for an individual will not be reviewed by the board or the department until that individual submits an application for registration as a land surveyor.

(Eff. / / , Register)

Authority: AS 08.48.101 AS 08.48.171 AS 08.48.201

12 AAC 36 is amended by adding a new section to read:

12 AAC 36.195. SITE ADAPTATION OF DRAWINGS. An architect or engineer registered in the state may site adapt design documents prepared by others if the architect or engineer

(1) has written permission to adapt the design documents from the person who sealed the original design documents or the legal owner of the design documents;

(2) reviews the design documents and makes all necessary revisions to bring the design documents into compliance with applicable codes, regulations, and job-specific requirements;

(3) independently performs all calculations and maintains them on file;

(4) after review, reissues the design documents with the title block and seal of the architect or engineer performing the site adaptation;

(5) maintains design control over the use of the site-adapted design documents just as if they were the original design of the architect or engineer performing the site adaptation. (Eff. / / , Register)

Authority: AS 08.48.101 AS 08.48.221

CHAPTER 02. DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING.

12 AAC 02.110 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(e) The following fee is established for opening a file for the retention of completed land surveyor work verification forms: \$50. (Eff. 11/20/86, Register 100; am 10/1/88, Register 107; am 5/4/90, Register 114; am 5/20/92, Register 122; am 9/5/93, Register 127; am 11/3/95, Register 136; am / / , Register)

Authority: AS 08.01.065 AS 08.48.265

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS NOTICE INFORMATION
AS 44.62.190(d)

1. **Adopting agency:** Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Board of Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors

2. **General subject of regulation:** Verification of work experience, site adaptation of drawings, and fees for opening a file to retain completed work experience verification forms

3. **Citation of regulation:** 12 AAC 02.110, 12 AAC 36.066 and 12 AAC 36.195

4. **Reason for the proposed action:** Development of program standards, compliance with statute

5. **Program category and BRU affected:** Operations #1844 - Occupational Licensing

6. **Estimated cost of implementation to the state agency and available funding:** (in thousands of dollars)

Initial Year (FY 97) - \$1
Subsequent Years - \$1

Source of funding is program receipts (occupational licensing fees)

7. **Contact person for the regulations:**

JoAnne Cummings, Regulations Specialist
Division of Occupational Licensing
P O Box 110806
Juneau, AK 99811-0806
(907) 465-2537

8. **Origin of the proposed action:** Department of Commerce and Economic Development and Board of Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors

9. **Date:** 3/11/97

Prepared by: 
JoAnne Cummings
Regulations Specialist
Division of Occupational Licensing