

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 2001-2002 8672

10691 SENATE STATE AFFAIRS

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ALASKA'S FLAG

*"Eight stars of gold in a field of blue,
Alaska's flag - - -"*

Alaska's beautiful flag, with its magnificent symbolism, had its debut in Paris, France, in September of 1927, when it was scarcely six months old. Designed by a thirteen-year old school boy, it won the contest sponsored by Alaska's American Legion and the first flag went to Paris for an American Legion convention.

Early in 1926, Gov. George Parks of Alaska was making a call in Washington, D.C. on Postmaster General New. The rotunda of the old Post Office Building was lined with flags of the states and territories. The Postmaster General explained: "The only reason that Alaska is not up there with the others is that you have no flag."

Upon his return to Alaska, Gov. Parks brought this to the attention of the Territorial Commissioner of Education, Lester D. Henderson, and suggested that it would be a fine idea to put on a contest among the Alaskan children for the purpose of securing a design for the Territorial flag.

Himself a member of the American Legion, Gov. Parks said: "The American Legion is probably in a better position than any other organization to promote such a contest in the schools. I think the designs should be submitted and adjudged before the convening of the Territorial Legislature in March 1927. If the legislature saw fit, it could adopt the design chosen at that time."

The Department Adjutant, Tom Petrich, immediately dispatched this information to all Legion Posts in Alaska. The Legion opened the contest to all schools in Alaska—public, private and parochial—both native and white, to seventh and eighth grade and high school students. But

where to get ideas? The *National Geographic Magazine* of October, 1917, contained copies of official flags of the various states and territories. The contestants were encouraged to study these for helpful suggestions for designs.

By January of 1927, the rules of the contest had been formulated and sent out. In each town a local board of judges was to be set up. One member of the American Legion Post, the school superintendent (principal or teacher) and one other citizen, preferably a P-TA member, comprised it. This group was to choose the ten best designs and forward them to Tom Petrich, at Juneau, Alaska, for submission to the Final Awards Committee. In towns where there was no American Legion Post, the school superintendent, (principal or teacher) acted as chairman and selected the two other citizens for this committee, who chose the ten best.

Presenting the designs was made as easy as possible. They were to be on plain paper, cardboard or drawing paper, 8½ x 11 inches; to be done in ink, observing such proportions as to length and width as would apply to the proposed flag when enlarged. Designs could be submitted in color, or, if desired, the contestant could write the color proposed in the proper places in the design. In case the seal of the Territory was made part of the design, it could be indicated by a circle, labeled as such. The name, age and address of the contestant must appear in pencil on the reverse or back side of the design. The Juneau deadline for the designs was March 1, 1927.

The Department Executive Committee of the American Legion in Alaska selected the Final Awards Committee. This committee was not to take into account the excellence of the art work, but rather the idea conveyed for suitability of the design for use in an official flag of Alaska.

The winner of the contest was to receive a gold watch, on the back of which would be enameled his or her design with an appropriately engraved case. Second prize was \$15

and third, \$10. Should a design be accepted by the Territorial Legislature in 1927, the American Legion was to send the winner to Washington, D.C. to present the first flag to the then President, Calvin Coolidge. This would be an interesting and fruitful experience for the winner.

And what a splendid response! Designs came in from all over the Territory. The Legislature was invited to choose or appoint two members from each House to sit with the three members of the Final Awards Committee. The House of Representatives chose Charles Benjamin from Wrangell and Walter Fisher from Fairbanks. The Senate appointed Thomas Jensen from Nome and John Dunn from Ruby. With them on the Final Awards Committee were Florence (Sally) Shafer, Mrs. Geo. Simpkins and Trevor Davis, all of Juneau.

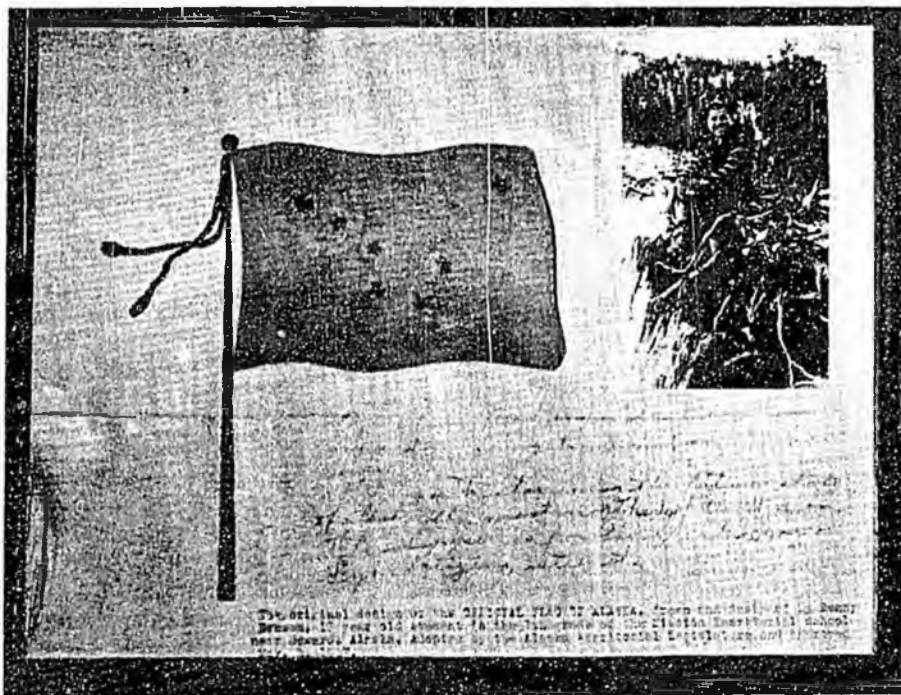
And what trends of creativity did these pioneer children show? From the 142 designs submitted, about one-third used the Seal of Alaska with accompanying features; six centralized a polar bear on an iceberg; many incorporated the North Star, and several, the midnight sun, the gold pan or northern lights.

"At one point in our deliberations," says Trevor Davis, one of the committee members, "we almost voted to select a polar bear on an ice-cake. But one of the ladies, another gentleman and myself protested so strongly on the grounds that it was not representative of all of Alaska, that a second vote was taken and the flag we now have was chosen." (Mrs. Geo. Simpkins and Trevor Davis are the only committee members still living at this writing.)

The award was given to that design drawn by Benny Benson, 13 years old, a seventh grade pupil in the Territorial School at Seward, residing in the Jesse Lee Mission Home. The second prize was won by Juanita Lewis, 16, of Wrangell, and the third was presented to Victor Wacker, 17, of Ketchikan.

Benny Benson's design consisted of the now familiar field of blue, with its eight gold stars, with these words written beneath:

"The blue field is for the Alaska sky and the forget-me-not, an Alaskan flower. The North Star is for the future state of Alaska, the most northerly in the union. The Dipper is for the Great Bear—symbolizing strength."



Benny Benson's original design for the Alaska flag.

The committee's report to the Legislature said: "Your committee,, appointed to act with the committee appointed by the American Legion to select an official Territorial flag, begs to report as follows:

"There were 142 designs submitted from the schools all over the Territory. Many of them were beautiful and works of art. The one selected, however, was the most original and significant of Alaska. We respectfully recommend that this be adopted as our official Territorial flag."

Both Houses of the Territorial Legislature unanimously adopted the design of Benny Benson and their Act read as follows:

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska:

Section 1. That the winning design of the flag contest held in 1927 by the American Legion, Department of Alaska, in the public, private and Native schools of the Territory, be, and the same is, hereby adopted as the official flag of Alaska.

Section 2. That the design of the official flag is eight gold stars in a field of blue, so selected for its simplicity, its originality and its symbolism. The blue, one of our National colors, typifies the evening sky, the blue of the sea and of mountain lakes, and of wild flowers that grow in Alaskan soil, the gold being significant of the wealth that lies hidden in Alaska's hills and streams.

The stars, seven of which form the constellation Ursa Major, the Great Bear, the most conspicuous constellation in the Northern sky, contains the stars which for the 'Dipper,' including the 'Pointers' which point toward the eighth star in the flag. "Polaris," the North Star, the ever constant star for the mariner, the explorer, the hunter, trapper, prospector, woodsman, and the surveyor. For Alaska the Northernmost star in the galaxy of stars and which at some future time will take its place as the Forty-ninth star in our National Emblem.

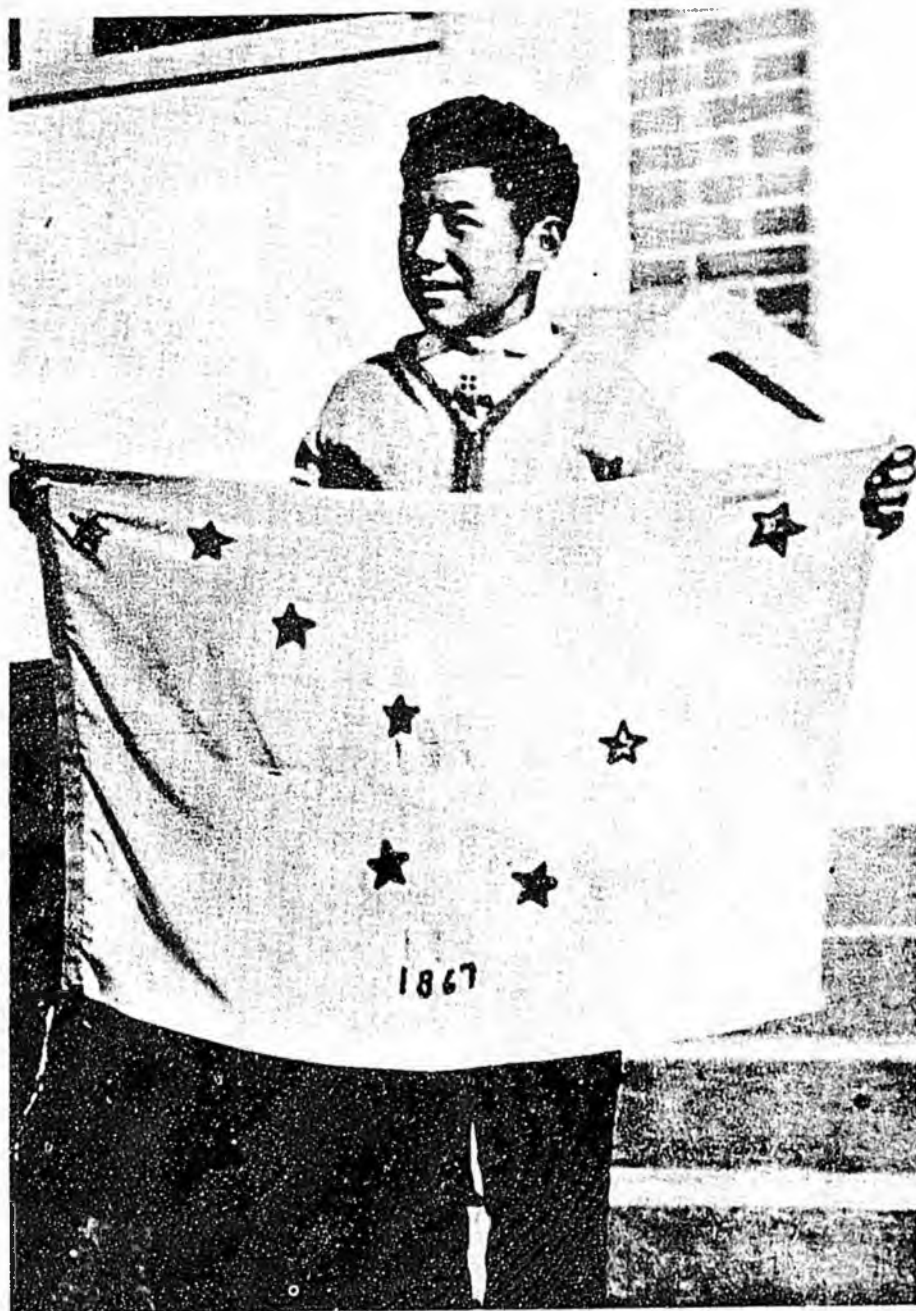
Section 3. That the Governor shall cause the original design to be properly encased and placed in the Alaska Historical Museum, and that due credit be given to Benny Benson, aged thirteen years, a student in the seventh grade of the Territorial School, near Seward, Alaska, the designer of the flag herein described and adopted as the official flag of Alaska.

Since the design of the 13-year old school boy was crude and needed modification, Florence (Sally) I. Shafer, Forest Service draftsman, was appointed as a member of the Final Awards Committee, because of her high artistic ability. She made many drawings to perfect and make applicable Benny's design for the actual making of the flag. The Legislature had appropriated \$250 for the making of the first flag.

Arrangements were made by Howard Thompson, Department Finance Convention Officer, for Benny Benson to present the first flag of the Territory to President Coolidge, in company with a delegation of Legionnaires and their wives en route to Paris for the convention. The Legislature had approved \$1000 for this, along with his beautiful gold watch of Howard movement, purchased at the Nugget Shop in Juneau, which also attended to the work of enameling his flag on its back. In the early part of September, however, President Coolidge was visiting in the Black Hills of South Dakota, so Benny's presentation had to be postponed. The watch was awarded him by the Legion Post at Seward.

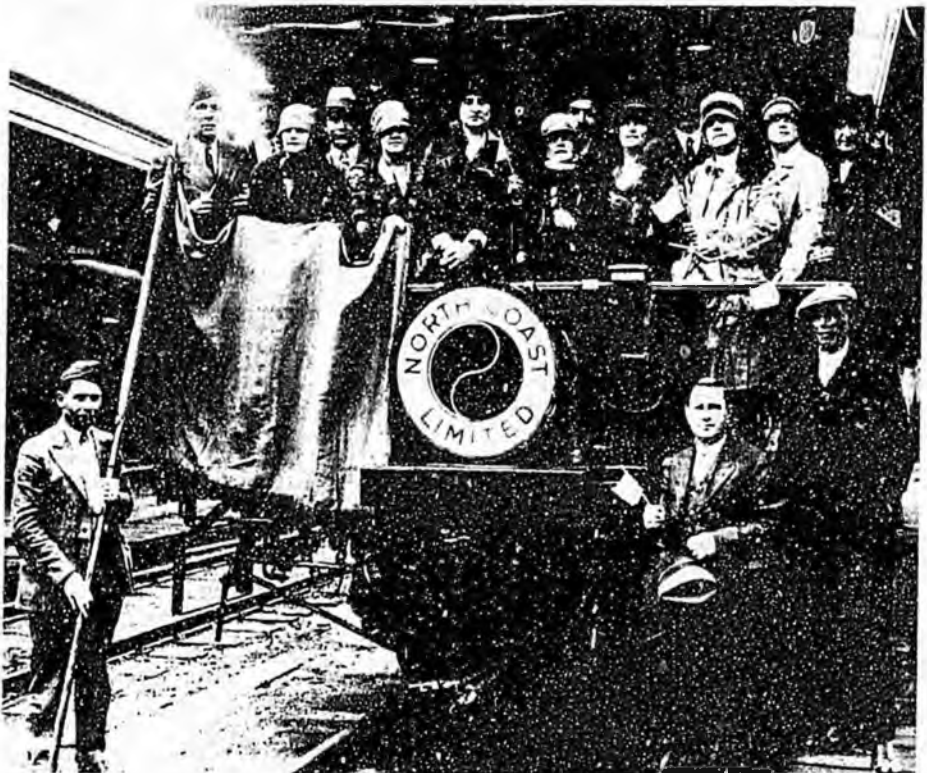


Benny Benson's watch, actual size, presented by the Seward Post of the American Legion.



Benny holding his own home made design.

For a few days the first flag was on display in the Territorial Museum in Juneau. Loaned by Governor George Parks, it left Alaska on the steamer, YUKON, accompanying the Alaskan Legionnaires to Seattle. There it was exhibited prominently in the main lobby of the Olympic Hotel. It then boarded a special car, chartered to Chicago, and attached to the North Coast Limited train of the Northern Pacific Railroad by courtesy of Karl Katz, representative of the Northern Pacific Railroad, who was a member of the Fairbanks Post.



The first Alaskan flag was displayed at the North Coast Limited just before it pulled out for the East from Seattle, Washington, in September, 1927, enroute to Paris, France to the American Legion Convention, where it was in the parade through the Arc d' Triomphe.

Top row; left to right: Past Department Commander Warren A. Taylor of Cordova; E. C. Dromnes, Sitka; Mrs. Warren A. Taylor, Cordova; Peter Kostrominoff and wife, Sitka; Belle Simpson, National Executive Committeewoman of the Auxiliary, Juneau; Mrs. Marion McKinney, Wrangell; Howard Thompson, Department Finance Convention Officer, Juneau; Mrs. Howard Thompson, Mrs. J. G. Grant, Wrangell; Mr. N. Nussbaumer, National Executive Committeeman from Wrangell, Alaska; Mrs. N. Nussbaumer, Wrangell, Mrs. Mae Gartley, Wrangell.

Bottom row: Holding the flag is J. R. Brabazon, Cordova; the man standing by the rail is Karl Katz, representative of the Northern Pacific Railroad Standing to the right on platform is J. Wilks from Little Squaw Mine, Chandalar District out of Fairbanks. (Mr. Wilks never returned, as he died of a brain tumor in London, England.)

Railroad publicity was built around Wilks, in connection with the party that traveled East in the latest style Pullman car, which they had all to themselves. Comrade Katz accompanied the party as far as Chicago. The delegation had stories in all the papers, along the railroad route, and often made the front pages. From Washington, D.C. the Legionnaires went to Paris on the S.S. LEVIATHAN. Again the flag was unfurled on the balcony in the main dining-salon, there being no other flags except the United States' and General Pershing's. Its symbolic meaning was explained in an article printed in the American Legion daily news sheet.

The Governor's office had also given the delegation a supply of small souvenir flags, with a description of the flag, for distribution while en route.

In Paris, the flag was honored with prominence in the Trocadero—the Convention Hall of the American Legion there. September 19th saw the convention parade of 20,000 Legionnaires. Gen. John J. Pershing, Marshal Foch and Commander Howard Savage headed it. According to Belle Simpson of Juneau, who participated: "Feeling was running high among the thousands of spectators and rampant anarchists, as Sacco and Vanzetti had just been executed. Regardless of our own opinions in the case, 31 of us from Alaska marched proudly behind our new flag down the Champ Elysees, through the Arc d' Triomphe. The women of the Auxiliary had been warned by the police that they might be snatched out of the parade. Bombs and assault were anticipated from the incited populace. So a French detective walked beside each Auxiliary member, there being 10,000 extra police drafted for protection duty.

"At the opening of the convention, one fellow shouted 'Vive Sacco et Vanzetti!' That is as far as he got. He was immediately arrested and placed in jail. Instead of the expected trouble, the parade was greeted with 'Vive l'Amerique!' and 'Vive l'Alaska!' all along the lines and 'enough kisses were thrown from the sidelines to smother us'," wrote Bell Simpson.

Alaska's Flag

Words by
MARIE DRAKE

Music by
ELINOR DUSENBURY

Marcia moderato

PIANO

f *rall.* *a tempo* *mf*

Eight stars of gold on a
field of blue, A - LAS - KA'S FLAG, may it mean to you; The
blue of the sea, the eve - ning sky, The moun - tain lakes and the
flow'rs near - by; The gold of the ear - ly sour - doughs dreams, The

The musical score is written in G minor (three flats) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a steady bass line and chords that support the melody. Above the piano part, guitar chord diagrams are provided for each measure. The tempo starts as 'Marcia moderato', then slows down to 'rall.' for the first system, and returns to 'a tempo' for the second system. The piano part begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic, which softens to mezzo-forte (*mf*) in the second system.

Guitar Chords:

- System 1: Bb, Eb
- System 2: Ab, Eb, Cm, F7, Bb7
- System 3: Eb, Ab, Cm, Bb, Eb
- System 4: F, Bb, Eb, Ab

Eb / Cm / F7 / Bb7 / Eb / / /
 pre - cious gold of the hills and streams; The bril - liant stars in the
 north - ern sky, The "Bear," the "Dip - per," and shin - ing high, The
 great North star with its stead - y light, O'er land and sea a bea - con bright, A -
 LAS - KA'S FLAG to A - las - kans dear, The sim - ple flag of a last fron - tier.

Ab G7 Cm / Eb Eb / F7 Bb /
 Eb / / / Cm G7 Cm / Eb G Cm F7 / Bb7 / Eb

f
mf
rall. molto

for the use of the ALASKA FLAG Song.

Alaskans bound for Paris were Miss Ruth and Glow Williams from Anchorage; J. R. Brabazon and Mr. and Mrs. Warren A. Taylor from Cordova; J. Wilks from Fairbanks—the Chandalar region; Mrs. S. L. Botsford, Mrs. Ella Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Roden, A. McClanahan (Mrs. Sheelor's father), Mrs. Edith Sheelor, Belle Simpson, Louis Simon, and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Thompson from Juneau; Amy Barlow, Mrs. Edwin Dillon, and Miss Harriet Rossiter from Ketchikan; Mr. and Mrs. Eiler Hansen, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kostrominoff and E. C. Dromnes from Sitka; Irene Coulter, L. C. Scribner, Mrs. O. B. McLaughlin, Mrs. Mae Gartly and Mr. and Mrs. N. Nussbaumer from Wrangell.

Since many of the Alaskans were taking the European side tours, Howard Thompson returned the flag to Juneau by express, and it was placed again in the Museum, where it is still on display. The Alaska Flag, however, received much attention and favorable comment throughout the trip.



Ex-Gov. Geo. Parks and Belle Simpson holding Alaska's first flag at the Alaska State Museum, where it is on display. George Parks instituted the flag contest and Belle Simpson accompanied the first flag to Paris.

At the next session of the Territorial Legislature, the Flag Act was amended to provide that Benny's \$1,000 appropriation (originally intended for his trip to Washington D.C.) be used for his education, after he left the Territorial School. Since the University did not then have the courses he desired, he chose to go to Hemphill Diesel School in Seattle, Washington.

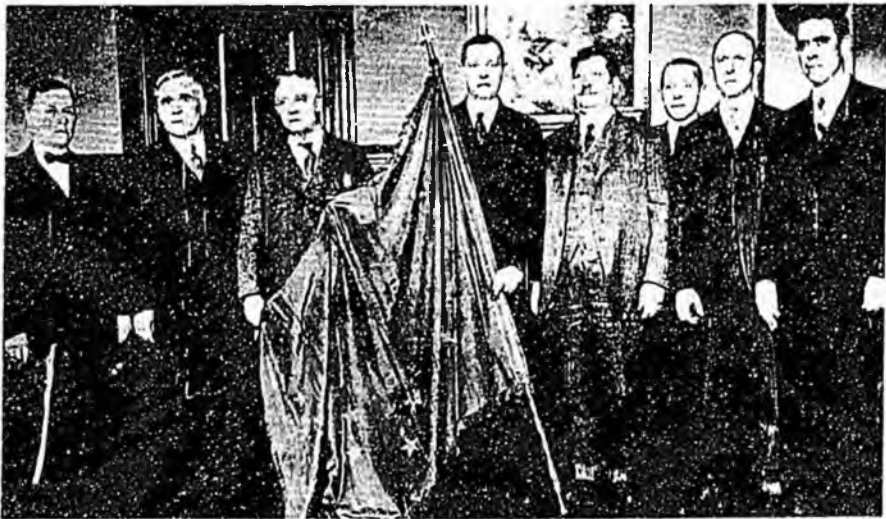
Benny was born in Chignik, a small settlement on the Alaska Peninsula, Oct. 12, 1913. He lost his mother when he was four years old after which his father sent him to the Methodist Jesse Lee Memorial Home, then located at Unalaska in the Aleutian Islands. Later the Home was moved to Seward, where Benny stayed until he was 20 years old. Benny was in the seventh grade at the Jesse Lee Home when he designed the flag.

Kodiak named a street for Benny. He fished later in Southeastern Alaska, then made his home in Seattle for a time before World War II. Since that time he has lived in Kodiak, among other Alaskan towns, making his living as an airplane mechanic.



Ben Benson at Alaska Statehood Commemoration exercises July 4, 1959, in Juneau, Alaska

In color and design, Alaska's flag blends well with and complements the Stars and Stripes, when the two flags are used together. Sometime later, another Alaska flag was officially presented to Postmaster New and accepted by him to take its place among the other flags of the states and territories in the Post Office Building in Washington, D.C. Present at this occasion, besides the Postmaster General and George Parks, who made the presentation, were; Hon. Dan Sutherland, then Congressional Delegate from Alaska; E. K. Burley, then Administration Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior; Colonel Malcolm Elliott, then Chief Engineer of the Alaska Road Commission; Charles Flory, then Regional Forester of the Alaska Forest Service; Dr. Charles Bunnell, President of the University and General Richardson, General U.S. Army Engineers.



Presentation of the Alaska Flag to Postmaster New. Left to right: Chas. Bunnell, Dan Sutherland, Postmaster New, Gov. Parks, Gen. Richardson, E. K. Burley, Chas Flory and Maj. Elliot.

The office of the Territorial Commissioner of Education wished to acquaint the school children of Alaska with the new flag and prepared to send each child a small flag with a copy of the Act which authorized the adoption. But Marie Drake, the intuitive Secretary to the Commissioner, felt something else was necessary. The Act was simply over their heads.

"It ought to be a jingle, which the children can easily read and understand, or they won't remember what it's all about," she contended.

"All right, go ahead and write one!" the Commissioner challenged.

"I will!" she declared stoutly, for already the lines had been forming themselves in her mind, as she worked at her mimeograph throughout the flag's initiation.

And so these lovely words of her poem fairly sprang from the pen of Marie Drake:

ALASKA'S FLAG

*Eight Stars of Gold on a Field of Blue—
Alaska's Flag. May it Mean to You
The Blue of the Sea, the Evening Sky,
The Mountain Lakes, and the Flow'rs Nearby;
The Gold of the Early Sourdough's Dreams,
The Precious Gold of the Hills and Streams;
The Brilliant Stars in the Northern Sky,
The "Bear"—the "Dipper"—and, Shining High,
The Great North Star with its Steady Light,
Over Land and Sea a Beacon Bright.
Alaska's Flag—to Alaskan's Dear,
The Simple Flag of a Last Frontier.*

—MARIE DRAKE

Alaska school children have come to love those words.

Born and raised in Van Wert, Ohio, Marie Drake and her husband, Jim, arrived in Seattle, during World War I, headed for Overseas duty in Red Cross work, in which they had been trained. Soon after their arrival in Seattle, however, the war ended. "We had said our 'goodbyes' in the East, so we decided to come on to Alaska which had always been our dream. . . . So Jim came to work in the Post Office and I, for the Commissioner of Education," laughed Marie. They remained for life, which for Marie lasted until March 5, 1963, when she passed away at St. Ann's Hospital in Juneau.



Marie Drake, author of the words ALASKA'S FLAG. She was Secretary to the Commissioner of Education, Lester D. Henderson.



Elinor Dusenbury, composer of ALASKA'S FLAG, taken at the time she was working on the accompaniment.

Recognizing the song possibilities of the poem, Elinor Dusenbury was stirred to write music for the words. She was the wife of the Commanding Officer at Chilkoot Barracks at Haines, Alaska, where they resided for three and a half years. She was a public school choral director and singer, herself, and was well qualified to compose the pleasing melody and hymn-like accompaniment so fitting for a State song.

In her own words: "I wrote the music for Marie's beautiful poetry from pure, unadulterated homesickness for Alaska! I shed more tears on the boat going out than I ever have, before or since. I had a book on Alaska with the picture of the flag and Marie's poem. That did it!" When she reached her new home in Omaha, Nebraska, she wrote the melody, but struggled with the harmony in her accompaniment of ALASKA'S FLAG for several months.

"Marie and I had no arrangements about the song until I got to Juneau the next summer—1938. She met me in the Baranof Hotel and we went to the piano and I played it for her. When I finished there were tears on her face. Fortunately for me, she loved it." She continued: "I was lucky to secure a publisher in the fall. Soon after publication, the NBC radio station, WOW in Omaha, sent the music to Fred Waring. Two weeks later, his Glee Club sang it on the Chesterfield Hour. It was a surprise to us both, though, when the Legislature passed its adoption as the official song of the Territory in 1955."

ALASKA'S FLAG immediately caught fire in the schools of Alaska and at general public gatherings. The Alaska Railroad advertised it and the Alaska Steamship Company publicized it. Its popularity spread rapidly through different choral arrangements and recordings. The University of Alaska now has full ownership of the Alaska Flag Song and all proceeds derived from its sale are placed in a special scholarship fund at the University for a worthy student.

Wm. A. Egan, Alaska's first Governor, was one of the Alaska Senators on the "Tennessee Plan" residing in Washington, D.C. who participated in debates and arguments on the Alaska Statehood Bill, prior to its passage.

"I was in the gallery when the Alaska Statehood Bill passed both the House and the Senate. It was a tremendous thrill!" said Neva Egan, Bill's wife who soon after became

Alaska's First Lady. But in her modesty, this she did not tell. Immediately after passage of the Bill by the Senate, a group—among them about thirty Alaskans—withdraw into the little Chapel of the Senate. Ada Wien, of Fairbanks, offered a prayer of humility and gratitude, then Neva Egan sang the hymn-like "Alaska's Flag" song, unaccompanied. She has a lovely voice and she never sang better. It was so quiet that participants could hear their own breathing. The ceremony was short and extremely impressive. "It was the most touching experience I've ever had!" said Bernie Vaille, who was present.

The U.S. Congress voted statehood for Alaska on June 30, 1958. The people of the Territory voted approval of this on August 26th, 1958, and on January 3rd, 1959, President Eisenhower signed the Proclamation admitting Alaska as the 49th State. It was the climax of 50 years of perseverance on the part of Territory residents. Statehood was commemorated on July 4th in Juneau, Alaska's Capital.

On that day there were grand float displays of Alaska's flag in innumerable flowers. Musical renditions of the "Flag Song" poured from the floats. Ben Benson rode as Grand Marshal of the huge parade, and both he and Marie Drake were introduced at the main exercises at the Juneau Memorial Library. After the new 49-star flag of Stars and Stripes had been raised, the audience stood in silence while a 49-shot aerial bomb volley saluted the new flag. The hush was broken by the beautiful strain "Eight stars of gold in a field of blue—" of the ALASKA FLAG song, hauntingly rendered by the unaccompanied voices of the Harmonette Trio. In this very impressive moment, the Alaska flag rose above the spellbound crowd, while the Fourth of July Queen and her attendants saluted.

So, at long last, the flag and the song and the unforgettable poem have helped Benny Benson achieve his vision of Statehood for Alaska—"The North Star is for the future State of Alaska, the most northerly of the Union."

The winter of 1962-63 Benny Benson was quite ill in a Seattle hospital. During the 1963 session the Alaska State Legislature, it was voted to award him \$2,500 to help defray his expenses.

Chapter 68 — SLA 1963:

Appropriating \$2,500 to Benny Benson as an award for designing the Alaska flag; and providing for an effective date.

Section 1. The sum of \$2,500 is appropriated from the general fund to Benny Benson, designer of Alaska's flag, as an award for designing the flag.

Section 2. The amount appropriated by this act shall be paid on vouchers certified by the governor.

Section 3. This Act takes effect on the day after its passage and approval or on the day it becomes law without such approval.

Approved April 15, 1963.

En route to his home in Kodiak, Benny Benson presented his historical watch to Mr. Ed Keithahn, curator of the Museum in Juneau for safekeeping for posterity. Several times his watch was stolen, but always recovered and Benny Benson prized it above everything.

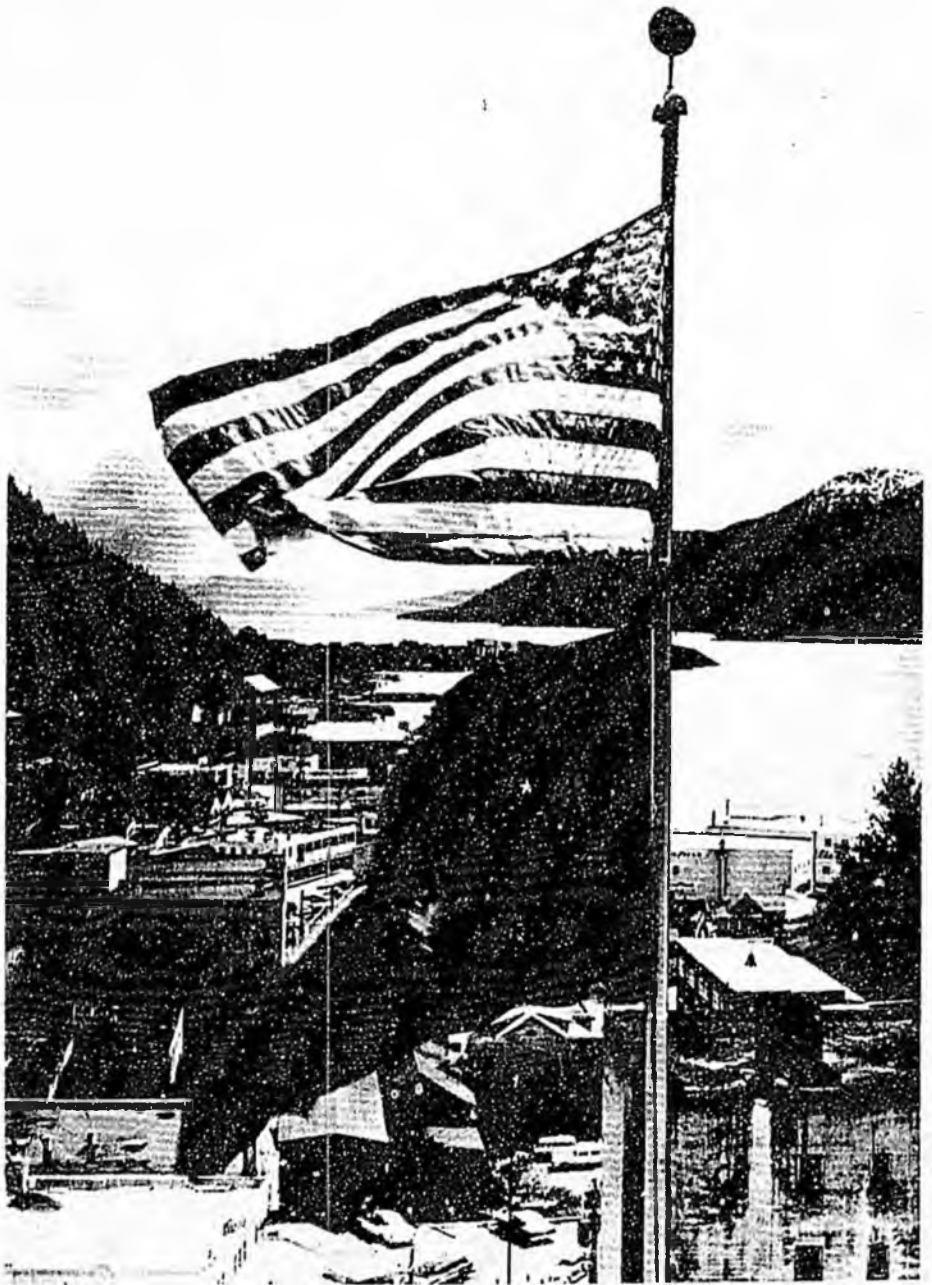
The watch is inscribed "Awarded in 1927 to Bennie Benson, Seward, Alaska, as first prize in the American Legion Flag contest, whose design was adopted by Alaska as its official flag."



Governor William A. Egan looks on as Benny Benson hands to E. L. Keithahn, curator of the Alaska State Historical Museum, the watch which the American Legion presented Benny in 1927 in recognition of his winning the contest for an official Alaska flag design. Benson, who lives in Kodiak, made a special trip to Juneau to present the watch to the State so that it may become part of the historic record of Alaska, available for public display to the thousands who each year visit the State Museum in the Capitol building. Benny's original flag design is already on display there.

Benny Benson, recognized as one of the finest airplane mechanics in the whole state, now lives in Kodiak, Alaska, alone, as his two daughters, Anna Mae and Charlotte, reside in the lower states.

May *"the simple flag of the last frontier"* fulfill its destiny with honor to the meaning it embodies.



Thanks to Alaskans United and Bob DeArmond for the use of the picture of the two flags—"The wedding of the United States and Alaska's Flags.

THERE'S THAT ABOUT ALASKA

"Why remain in cold Alaska?
You just went there for a while."
Can you count the times you've heard this
And suppressed an inward smile?

Now there's that about Alaska
That can win your heart and hand.
God reserved His greatest grandeurs
To bestow on this rare land.

There's a reverence in its mountains
And a heart-calm in its seas,
That give your spirit freedom
To deny conformities.

There are nuggets in the quartz lodes
But few find the rainbow ends,
So you'll seek your cherished riches
In your work, your dreams, your friends.

Thus your need for self-expression
Finds an outlet, seven-fold,
In the niche you've longed to fill most.
This is treasure! This is gold!

Coming to this frontier country
You join one fraternity,
Share its scandals, fights and laughter,
And warm generosity.

With the fine folks that you meet here
Artificiality
Loses face, and soon you mingle
In true informality.

Sure there's that about Alaska,
And it's something none can name!
Something big and fine, yet simple,
Which rewards you that you came.

For the blue flag's gold-starred dipper
Breathes romance — adventure, too!
Up here anything can happen,
And dramatic, strange things, do.

Tell them that you love Alaska,
And you'll stay, for it loves you.
Yes, there's that about Alaska —
Tell them, "Come and find it, too!"

Carol Beery Davis

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About the University of Alaska Foundation



The University of Alaska Foundation is a private nonprofit corporation, operated as a public Foundation, which was established in 1974 to solicit, manage and invest donations for the exclusive benefit of the University of Alaska. The Foundation is a tax-exempt organization as described in Subsection 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and donations made to the Foundation are deductible according to schedules established under income and estate tax regulations. The Foundation qualifies as a public charitable organization under Subsection 170 (b) (1) (A) (vi) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Foundation is legally separate and distinct from the University of Alaska and is organized under its own Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Its members are its College of Fellows and it is governed by its own Board of Trustees. This thirty member board is composed of prominent Alaskans and includes the University President, the three University Chancellors, as well as two members of the Board of Regents. The Board meets three times annually and establishes the Foundation's investment policy for the endowments, manages donated property and oversees the distribution of the Foundation's assets to its sole beneficiary, the University of Alaska system.

The Board of Regents of the University of Alaska has recognized the University of Alaska Foundation as the entity which should manage private gifts and governmental gifts restricted to 501 (c) (3) organizations made to support all campuses of the University of Alaska system. The Regents Policies further direct that all unrestricted gifts to the University of Alaska must be transferred to the Foundation. It further states that restricted gifts, too, may be transferred to the

Foundation.

The Foundation is a well established non-profit in Alaska with 25 years of experience in the management of funds to support the University of Alaska. The Foundation has a full time staff of four including an executive director with fourteen years of experience in fund raising and fund management within higher education institutions.

The Foundation has access to University based expertise in tax law and corporate taxing, land management and land development services, real estate marketing, a full range of legal services, fund management and investment services.

The Foundation has assets of more than \$56 million and a pooled endowment fund of more than \$42 million which is managed by several investment firms selected by the Foundation's Investment Committee. This allows the Foundation to invest in larger blocks with accompanying higher returns on investment. Since inception, thirteen years ago, the Foundation's Pooled Endowment fund has earned at total return rate of a little over 13%.

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amanda.wall@alaska.edu

The Foundation has experience with the acceptance, valuation and management of such diverse donations as government grants, developed and undeveloped real estate (raw land and office buildings, single family residences and condominiums), stocks, bonds, and a large variety of tangible personal property gifts including gifts of raw gold, collections of Ivory, fine art pieces, copyrights, musical instruments, etc.

The Foundation has experience assisting donors in making gifts through trusts, bequests, life insurance policies and similar instruments and has the ability to provide such instruments to donors depending upon their needs.

The Foundation adheres to the highest ethical standards with regard to fundraising and fund management and subscribes to the Code of Ethics adopted by and is a member of, the Council of Advancement and Support of Education. The Foundation staff regularly (at least annually) attends continuing education seminars to remain current in the field of charitable giving.

The accounts at the Foundation are overseen by a treasurer who is the Vice President of Finance of the University of Alaska and who is assisted by a staff including two certified Public Accountants. The Foundation's financial books are audited annually by the accounting firm of KPMG Peat Marwick and the audited financial statement appears in the Foundation's annual report.

Alaska State Legislature

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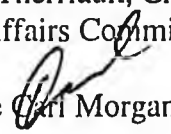
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Representative Carl M. Morgan, Jr.
District 36

MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Gene Therriault, Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee

From: Representative  Carl Morgan

Date: January 31, 2002

Subject: House Bill 285

I respectfully request that you schedule HB 285 for consideration by the Senate State Affairs Committee at your earliest convenience. Twenty-nine of my colleagues in the House and three from the Senate have joined with me by co-sponsoring/cross-sponsoring this bill. HB 285 passed the House 35-0.

Successful passage of this bill is of historical significance. It officially incorporates the second verse of "Alaska's Flag" into the official state song. It also recognizes the late Carol Beery Davis, a long time Alaskan from Juneau, whose words not only acknowledge Benny Benson, but also the history, progress and beauty of the great State of Alaska. My Sponsor Statement covers the rationale for the bill in more detail. However, I want to emphasize that this bill is timely with the Alaska State Museum's celebration and recent opening of the Alaska Flag Exhibit in Juneau.

In addition to my Sponsor Statement, attached is a copy of the bill, a zero fiscal note, copies of the Gift of Musical Work from Marie Drake, Elinor Dusenbury and Carol Beery Davis to the University of Alaska-Foundation, several letters of support and news articles.

I thank you for your prompt consideration of this request. If you have questions on HB 285, please call me at 465-4527.

Attachments

Flag song addition



SEANNA O'SULLIVAN / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Connie Davis, left, and Harriet H. Roberts of Alaska Native Sisterhood of Juneau Camp 2 react to a House of Representatives vote to add a second verse to the Alaska State Flag song on Wednesday at the Capitol. Davis is the daughter of Carol Beery Davis, who wrote the verse approved by the House.

Juneau Empire

Worthy addition to state song

I would like to thank Rep. Carl Morgan for his leadership in sponsoring HB 285, an act adding a second verse to the official Alaska state song, and for his efforts in

bringing Benny Benson's granddaughter and great-granddaughter to Juneau for the events last week. It was a delight to hear both verses sung by the Alaska Youth Choir at the opening session of the House of Representatives and at the Alaska Flag Exhibit in the State Museum. Thoughts of my mother, who wrote the second verse, were going through my mind because I knew she would have been very happy to hear children singing both verses.

I hope all Alaskans will soon have the experience not only of hearing the second verse but also of singing it during important events in their lives. Like any second, third, or fourth verse to a song, it is an addition, not a change. It emphasizes growth and strength in unity, envisioned by young Benny Benson with his flag design.

Constance Davis
Juneau

House OKs adding verse to state song

JUNEAU—The House agreed unanimously Wednesday to add a verse honoring the contributions of Alaska Natives to the official state song. The bill's sponsor, Rep. Carl Morgan, R-Aniak, said adopting the second verse will help heal wounds and unite the state. "Alaska's Flag" was written by Marie Drake and officially adopted as the state song in 1956. Carol Beery Davis wrote the second verse in the 1980s, but an attempt in 1987 to officially add it to the state song failed.

Original AK flag surprises visitors by Kristin Price

Relatives of Benny Benson, the designer of Alaska's State Flag, were met with a pleasant surprise on a recent visit to Juneau. Charlotte Benson-Irvin and Sherry Irvin, daughter and granddaughter of the late Benny Benson, who were in Juneau for the opening of an Alaska Flag exhibit at the State

Museum, were delighted to discover that there is another original flag located at the Elk's Lodge in Juneau.

The Irvins, along with Connie David, whose mother wrote the second verse of the Alaska State song, arrived at the Juneau Elks Lodge to find an Alaska State Flag

handmade and signed by Benny Benson and presented to the Elks in 1949. "They were very pleased to see the flag, which has some family significance," said Bill Lawrence, staff to Rep. Carl Morgan, and past Elk's Exalted Ruler.

In addition to the flag, the visitors also found a photograph taken of Benson, after his flag design was selected in 1927. "They were really surprised," said Susan Bushnell, Elk's Lodge Exalted Ruler. "They didn't think anyone had this picture."

Benny Benson submitted his design for Alaska's State Flag in a territorial contest in 1926. Benson's design was selected from 242 entries in a contest as best and most representative of Alaska. The design was adopted by the Alaska territorial legislature in 1927.



Representative Carl Morgan, Charlotte Benson-Irvin, and Sherry Irvin take a look at an Alaska flag signed by Benny Benson and presented to the Elks in 1949. photo by David Sheakley



(L-R) Bill Lawrence, Susan Bushnell, Sherry Irvin, Rep. Carl Morgan, Charlotte Benson-Irvin, Connie David, and Lord Nottingham gathered to look at an original Alaska flag made by Benny Benson. Photo by David Sheakley

we made camp in teams. Each team would find two trees about the right distance apart for a lean-to. Then we'd cut down everything else in sight. We needed poles to lash together for the lean-to frame and lots of boughs — to weave into the poles and to make beds for our sleeping bags. We also needed firewood. We never left a winter survival site looking like anything but a British Columbia clear-cut.

Once we had the shelter built, we turned our attention to the fire. The Scouts taught lots of ways to make a fire with nothing but available materials. But we didn't use any of them. Instead, we employed a form of fire starting first explained to me by a friend of my dad.

"The best way to start a fire is our way, the Indian way," he said.

"How's that?" I asked.

"Blazo," he said, "and a steel-jacketed bullet."

Our scout leaders had an irrational — nay, un-American — aversion to having us kids go out into the woods armed. So we had to make do with lighter fluid and kitchen matches. Nothing like lighter fluid to get one of those black spruce fires smoldering real good.

After that, it was charring some meat for dinner, crawling into our bags and falling asleep, while the adults snuck back to the vehicles to warm up.

Piece of cake, really. In fact, I can only think of one better way to survive winter. The way I use now. The way every real Alaskan teaches his children: Stay indoors, and try to make it to Hawaii for a couple of weeks every winter.

■ Mike Doogan's opinion column appears each Tuesday, Friday and Sunday. His telephone number is 257-4350, and his e-mail address is mdoogan@adn.com.

■ TUSSELE: Jerome Logan accused of killing man after basketball game.

By NICOLE TSONG
Anchorage Daily News

Billy Watterson's life ended on a summer night in 2000 when a fight fueled by alcohol exploded in racial taunts after a pickup basketball game, attorneys said as Jerome Logan's murder trial began Monday in Anchorage Superior Court.

Prosecutors say Logan — who faces one count of first-degree murder, two counts of second-degree murder and one count of third-degree assault — shot and killed 21-year-old Watterson at a party in East Anchorage.

In opening statements before Judge Mike Wolverton, assistant district attorney Hollis French told the jury that Logan had opportuni-

ties to leave the party after a fight. Instead, he took a gun from his car and returned, French said.

"Jerome Logan should have walked away. Anger and alcohol clouded his judgment," the prosecutor said.

But defense attorney Rex Butler said Logan, 22, didn't intend to shoot anyone when he brandished the gun. Logan was angry because of racial taunts directed at him after the basketball game, Butler said. The gun went off during a struggle between Logan and other people, he said.

"I suspect evidence will show that during the course of this fight ... that the gun ended up discharging at least twice, maybe three times, and unfortunately Billy Watterson is dead," Butler said.

See Page B-3, SHOOTING

Billy Watterson was 21 when he was shot and killed in 2000 at a party in East Anchorage.



Jerome Logan faces assault charges as well as first- and second-degree murder charges.

Choir belts out 2nd verse to state song



SEANNA O'SULLIVAN / The Associated Press

House Speaker Brian Porter, R-Anchorage, has joined 14 representatives in sponsoring a bill to add a verse to "Alaska's Flag."

■ BILL: House of Representatives hears the proposed addition to 'Alaska's Flag.'

By CATHY BROWN
The Associated Press

JUNEAU — The Alaska Youth Choir gave the state House of Representatives a chance to hear — literally — one of the bills they'll probably vote on this year.

During opening ceremonies in the House on Monday, the children's choir chimed out two verses of "Alaska's Flag" instead of one.

Fourteen representatives, including House Speaker Brian Porter, are sponsoring a bill to officially add the second verse, which honors the contributions of Alaska Natives, to the state song.

Adoption of the second verse was among more than 100 measures Gov. Tony Knowles' Commission on Tol-



See Page B-3, SONG

IIIUI UCI

■ PICKLE: Info troubles create Joshua Wade c

BY SHEILA TOOMEY
Anchorage Daily news

Prosecutors in murder case have on their way to Their most impc the ones who wore ed Wade apparen he killed Della Br fall 2000, have b armed robbery.

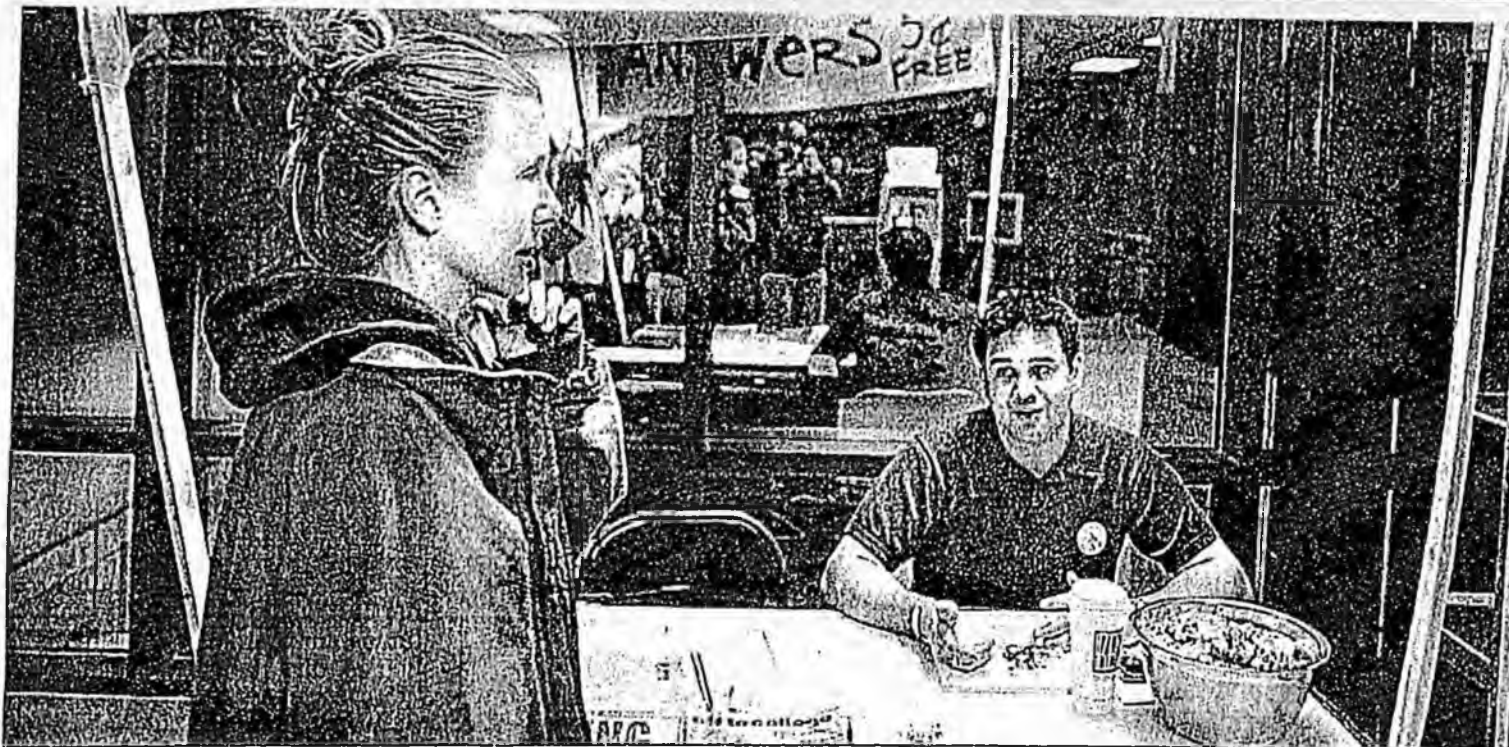
The fact that vi be criminals isn't t mants often have l get worked out by know about some havior for reduce own case.

The problem l Daniel Troxel an are charged with first-degree rob felonies that col prison for 10 years ed. According to ment, the robbery beatings.

It is unlikely l can be resolved b al, scheduled fo That means Tr could be called a: Wade with the ch them.

If prosecutor puts the two on th torney Cindy Str tainly have a righ the robberies. T

11/15/02
Juneau
Empire



MARC LESTER / Anchorage Daily News

Junior Hollenbeck offers some advice about the UAA campus to Theresa Rzczcki at the student center. The booth at the University of Alaska Anchorage was provided by the Campus Life group for new student orientation. Hollenbeck said most people just wanted directions to a building or room. Spring semester began last week.

8.08, Stokesbury said, means about \$12 less in per \$100,000 in property.

The overall budget, including state and federal revenue totals \$454.9 million, a 1.4 percent increase from last year.

Comeau's proposed budget includes a number of new positions and programs. He has outlined \$234,350 for new vice principals at the district's largest middle school and \$156,100 for two new

SHOOTING says tussle to Watter.

Continued from B-1

According to the press report, the players shot back to pick teams, which happened to fall largely along racial lines. After Logan's team of four black men lost to a team of three white men and a black man, taunts from a white player, Chris Twete, of the atmosphere, French

Twete told Logan, "Welcome to school," and "A lot of white boys beat you." French said, adding that Twete also may have used a racial slur.

Logan and Twete got into a fight, and Logan punched Twete in the face, the press report said. Another man, L. Sherburne, tackled Logan and told him to leave.

French said Logan and some friends but once there reached in and found out a handgun was

SONG: Youth Choir sings proposed second verse

Continued from B-1

French recommended to heal the racial divide between whites and minority groups. The commission was appointed after public outrage last winter over paint ball attacks by three white teens on Natives in downtown Anchorage.

More sweeping recommendations included new hate crime laws, increased funding for rural schools attended mostly by Natives and an end to the decade-long stalemate over subsistence.

Porter, R-Anchorage, said he didn't know whether the House Republican majority would accept all the commission's recommendations, but members want to address the racial divide.

"Certainly the intent of the House is to work toward urban-rural respect as opposed to gap," Porter said. Having both verses of the song performed Monday seemed like a nice beginning to that pursuit, he said. An aide to Porter

arranged the opening-day ceremony.

Adding the second verse is not a new idea. Democratic Lt. Gov. Fran Ulmer introduced a bill to do so around 1987, when she was representing Juneau in the House.

The second verse was written by the late Carol Berry Davis, who lived in Juneau. She was disturbed that the original song did not recognize Alaska Natives, Ulmer said.

That time around, the bill passed in the House but died in a Senate committee, Ulmer said.

Senate President Rick Halford said Monday that he had no initial objection to adding the verse but he wanted to listen to a tape of Monday's House floor session to ensure the two verses fit well together.

The bill's first hearing will be at 8 a.m. Thursday in the House State Affairs Committee.

Adding the second verse is not a new idea. Democratic Lt. Gov. Fran Ulmer introduced a bill to do so around 1987, when she was representing Juneau in the House.

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Sourdough Jack says....

Column Last Updated:
Wednesday, January 16, 2002 - 4:58:37 AM MST



Alaskans should all weigh in on 'Alaska's Flag' verse

By Dermot Cole

Wednesday, January 16, 2002 - HOW ABOUT A statewide contest to write a second verse for "Alaska's Flag?"

That would be in keeping with the way in which the elegant flag described by the song was created. It would also bring together people from across Alaska for this, the 75th anniversary of the simple flag of a last frontier.

I make this suggestion because a legislative committee chaired by Rep. John Coghill plans a hearing Thursday morning in Juneau on plans to add a second verse to "Alaska's Flag," the official state song.

The committee is considering a proposed second verse written by the late Carol Beery Davis, former poet laureate of Alaska.

But many artists across the state may have good ideas on a second verse for the official song that would recognize Alaska Native cultures and other important themes and do so in words that are both as simple and as memorable as those in the original.

The Thursday hearing on the flag song will be teleconferenced to Fairbanks and testimony will be taken at the Legislative Information Office in Fairbanks in the Denali State Bank building at 8 a.m.

The story of the flag song begins with Benny Benson, a Native student at the Jessie Lee Home in Seward who submitted the winning design for an Alaska flag when the territory held a contest among schoolchildren in 1927.

In his written description of his plan, Benson made it clear why he chose a blue

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Judy Klemm

Gary Moore

background and the stars: "The blue field is for the Alaska sky and the forget-me-not, an Alaskan flower. The North Star is for the future state of Alaska, the most northerly in the union. The Dipper is for the Great Bear--symbolizing strength."

Based on Benson's text, Marie Drake wrote the poem that became the flag song. Drake was a secretary to the commissioner of Education and her poem was set to music by Elinor Dusenbury in 1938. It became Alaska's official song in 1955.

"When they sing 'Alaska's Flag,'" Dusenbury once said, "People always stand, and older ones cry when they come to the words, 'Alaska's Flag to Alaskans dear, the simple flag of the last frontier.'"

With the exception of the images added by Drake, "The gold of the early sourdough's dreams, the precious gold of the hills and streams," the song follows Benson's explanation of what the flag meant to him.

THE PROPOSED NEW verse begins, "A Native lad chose the Dipper's stars, For Alaska's flag that there be no bars, Among our cultures. Be it known, Through years the Natives' past has grown..."

In subjective matters like this there is always poetic license, but the line makes it seem as if Benson's motivation for choosing the Dipper as a symbol was something other than what he said it was.

The proposed second verse also contains a line that will take some explaining, namely, "With nature's flag to Alaskans dear..."

When Lt. Gov. Fran Ulmer was a legislator she introduced a bill to add the words by Davis as the second verse. The bill was approved by the House in 1987, but rejected by the Senate.

Among the 23 House members who have already signed on to back the bill this year, HB 285, four are from the Fairbanks area--Coghill and Reps. Jim Whitaker, Jeannette James and John Davies.

The proposed second verse is as follows:

"A Native lad chose the Dipper's stars
for Alaska's flag that there be no bars
Among our cultures. Be it known
Through years the Natives' past has grown
To share life's treasures, hand in hand,
To keep Alaska our Great Land;
We love the northern, midnight sky,
The mountains, lakes and streams nearby.
The great North Star with its steady light
Will guide all cultures, clear and bright,
With nature's flag to Alaskans dear,
The simple flag of the last frontier."

Channels

Privacy Po

Find y

AN EXHIBIT ABOUT Alaska's flag opens Thursday in Juneau at the Alaska State Museum. It includes 36 of the original 142 proposed flag designs submitted by children in Alaska in 1927. Among the students with designs in the exhibit are Bob DeArmond, Paul Solka, Steve McCutcheon, Mary Walsh and Frances Meals.

The exhibit is designed to be a traveling one and I hope that someone will arrange to get it to Fairbanks as it tours the state over the next two years. The display includes the gold watch Benson received for winning the flag contest and other items.

The catalog to the flag exhibit, written by UAF archivist India Spartz, quotes a letter that William Paul, a Native lawyer and legislator, sent to Benson after the flag was chosen.

"I had the honor of writing the bill--now a law--which made your winning design the official flag of Alaska ... Altogether, this should encourage the Native races in Alaska to enter competition with all others, to do so without fear, and to stick to it until we win something," Paul wrote.

Paul's bill said the flag was selected for its "simplicity, its originality and its symbolism."

Spartz writes that Benson, who died in 1972, often said that the biggest thrill of his life was when he received a standing ovation from the delegates of the Alaska Constitutional Convention in Fairbanks. "The noise was so loud I couldn't hear a thing; people whistled and hollered and stamped," he said.

ON THE WAY: Elementary school report cards should be personally delivered by local scholars this week. In the interests of seeing that the middle school and high school report cards reach parents, those are sent by mail and should show up by the end of the week.

Dermot Cole can be reached at cole@newsminer.com or 459-7530.



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Subject: Alaska Flag Song

Date: Fri, 25 Jan 2002 17:39:18 -0900

From: "Buck and Charlene Stewart" <bcstewart@customcpu.com>

To: "Senator Lyda Green" <Senator_Lyda_Green@legis.state.ak.us>

Hello Lyda

After my e-mail to you, I saw some more publicity on the proposed second verse which rather indicated to me that there was a feeling to adopt something THIS year and not be waiting around. Soooooooo, I put myself in poetic mode and wrote my own verse, which I have forwarded to both Brian Porter and Rick Halford. Rep. Porter liked my alternative, but I believe he felt it arrived in Juneau to late to consider at this time.


As to the verse just passed by the House, the "mountains, lake & streams near by" is almost like "mountain lakes and the flowers near by" in the first verse; "great North Star with its steady light" is in the first verse; we are not sure what "nature's flag" means; we rather doubt that Benny Benson had anything in mind regarding there being no bars; etc. It almost seems that, rather than drawing together all the peoples of Alaska, this verse singles out the Natives and ignores everyone else.

I am attaching my suggested verse. Our chorus will be singing all 3 verses at the "Talent or Not" Show at the Willow Community Center tomorrow night. (Jan 26)

I have previously sent my verse only to Rep. Porter and Sen. Halford. Feel free to pass it on to any and all of your colleagues for their comments.

Sincerely,

Charlene Stewart

 Alaska Flag Song.doc	Name: Alaska Flag Song.doc Type: WINWORD File (application/msword) Encoding: base64
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ALASKA FLAG SONG
(suggested additional verse)

**Down through the years, many peoples came.
The first gave this Great Land its name.**

**They hunted whales and caribou,
Passed knowledge on each year anew.**

**Then more the northern journey made
To fish and mine, to trap and trade.**

**Our streams and lakes with fish abound.
Much of our wealth comes from the ground.**

**We who live here and love this land
Join all together hand in hand**

**To pledge allegiance as we see
Our flag of blue and gold fly free.**

Contributions by Carol Beery Davis in Performing Arts, Prose and Poetry

Music

- 1920 - Theatre organist and pianist for the silent movies at the Palace Theatre
Developed piano and organ class and taught until her 84th year.
- 1939 - *Songs of the Totem*, her early collection of Tlingit trade songs, expanded into *Totem Echoes* in 1984; song motifs first taken down by ear and on rubber discs.
President, **Juneau-Douglas Concert Association**; served on Board for 25 years
- 1940 - Gave concert tours throughout Alaska with other local and western states' musicians.
Co-founder of **Alaska Music Trail**, a twenty-five-year old organization of tours, featuring national and international professional musicians
- 1960 - Arranged accompaniment for *Sing Away*, a dozen children's songs by Cleone Secrist.
- 1990 - *Aurora Images*, a lifelong collection of some of her own Alaskan song and verse, used for light entertainment and now in print at the local museums.
- 1975 - Promoted and coordinated the trip for a Tlingit dance group, **The Juneau Dancers**, to participate in the U.S. Bicentennial at Baltimore and Washington, D.C., using pageantry from *Songs of the Totem*.

Prose and Poetry

- 1946 - Founder and President of the eight-year **Juneau Creative Writers**
- 1953 - Published first book of poetry, *Alaska Driftwood*.
- 1964 - Published *Alaska's Flag*, a first-hand account of the story of our flag.
- 1965 - Founder and President of the seventeen-year **Alaska Poetry Society** which produced the anthology, *One Hundred Years of Alaska Poetry*, which won a Gold and Silver plaque. (Alaska Purchase Commission). Also listed in *Who's Who of American Women* (3rd Ed.).
- 1967 - 1969 - Alaska Poet Laureate
- 1968 - Awarded the Silver cup, second prize, for ballad, *Saga of the Islander*, from Greater Anchorage, Inc., and for *Unseen Presence* in 1969 in Legends of Alaska contest.
- 1969 - Listed in *The Two Thousand Women of Achievement*
- 1970-1971 - Listed in *International Who's Who in Poetry*
- 1973 - Honored by the 2nd World Congress of Poets to be a delegate to Taiwan for a large conference. Funds were raised to send her on an Alaska Day celebration sponsored by the Juneau Arts & Humanities Council. She received the Congress' Gold medal on that occasion.
- 1974 - Published second book of poetry, *Home is North*, and *Tiger of Taku*, the story of a local personality.
- 1975 - Received a Gold crown, signifying Woman of the Year of the International Poets Laureate
- 1976 - Awarded Gold plaque for contributions to poetry, Silver crown for leadership in poetry by 3rd World Congress of Poets.
- 1977 - Certificate of Excellence in support of The Performing and Literary Arts presented by Governor Jay Hammond.
- 1978 - Published 3rd book of poetry, *Fiber Grass*.
- 1983 - Awarded an Honorary Doctorate in the Humanities, UAS., and published autobiography.
- 1989 - Won World of Poetry Golden Poet Award for poem *Backward, Turn Backward*.
Poem published in Campbell's *World Treasury of Great Poems*, Vol. II.

%SUNRISE RACQUET CLUB
1971 PASEO RAQUETA
PAIM SPRINGS, CA. 92262
FEBRUARY 18, 2002

SENATOR GARY WILKEN
SENATOR PETE KELLY
SENATOR GENE THERRIAULT
STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182

DEAR SENATORS:

PLEASE EXCUSE THIS "FIELD TYPEWRITER". I AM VACATIONING IN CALIFORNIA, TRAITOROUS AS THAT MAY SEEM. ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF: MY NAME IS JIM BELL AND I AM A COMPOSER/LYRICIST LIVING AND WORKING IN FAIRBANKS. IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT THERE IS A BILL BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE TO AMEND THE STATE SONG TO INCLUDE A SECOND VERSE.

I THINK THIS IS A FINE AND LONG OVERDUE IDEA. WORKING IN FAIRBANKS AND ANCHORAGE FOR THIRTY-FIVE YEARS HAS SHOWN ME THAT ON MANY OCCASIONS, FOR EXAMPLE, CIVIC OPENINGS, PIONEER FUNERALS, CLUB EVENTS AND SOCIAL GATHERINGS, A SECOND VERSE TO OUR STATE SONG WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND APPRECIATED. ONE SUCH EVENT COMES TO MIND IMMEDIATELY: THE ANNUAL FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION AT ALASKALAND.

AFTER TAKING A CLOSE LOOK AT THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED SECOND VERSE, I FRANKLY THINK THAT ALASKA CAN DO BETTER. BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, I FEEL THAT THE OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE SUCH A VERSE WOULD BE A MAGNIFICENT CHANCE FOR ALASKAN WRITERS, POETS AND LYRICISTS TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES AND THEIR PARTICULAR FEELINGS ABOUT THEIR STATE. I WOULD CERTAINLY WELCOME SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY AND WOULD CONSIDER IT AN HONOR JUST TO BE ABLE TO SUBMIT SUCH A VERSE.

IT IS MY HOPE THAT THIS LETTER WILL ADD ANOTHER VOICE IN FAVOR OF THIS ISSUE AND THAT THERE WILL BE A CREATIVE OUTPOURING FROM THE ARTISTIC COMMUNITY IF SUCH A CHALLENGE IS OPENED TO US.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER.

SINCERELY YOURS,

Jim Bell
JIM BELL

(760)323-7215 until March 31

AFTER MARCH 31:

(907) 456-7656

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E-MAIL: pianoman22@mymailstation.com

HB

289

Alaska State Legislature

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Representative Gary Stevens

SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Bill 289

Effective Date of a Municipal Manager Plan and the Repeal of a Municipal Manager Plan

~Updated April 11, 2002~

HB 289, "An Act relating to the effective date of a municipal manager plan that has been adopted and to the effective date of the repeal of a municipal manager." would ensure that a change in a municipal government's form of administration will not affect an existing mayor nor confuse the voters while protecting their rights.

Whenever a municipal government administration change occurs there is potential for confusion. Candidates for strong mayor may be elected to office only to find themselves serving as a ceremonial mayor under a manager plan of government. Candidates for mayor under a manager plan may find themselves elected strong mayor. Voters may be uncertain as to which office they are electing a candidate.

HB 289 corrects this problem by providing a one year transition period before the new administration plan takes effect and for a special election to be held to truncate the current mayor's term if the transition occurs while they are still in office.

Currently, Alaska statutes do not allow municipalities and boroughs to accomplish the provisions in HB 289. Please help rectify that situation by supporting this bill.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: SSHB 289
 (H) Publish Date: 2/19/02

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): 2/19/02 Dept. Affected: _____
 Title Municipal Manager Plan BRU _____
 Component _____
 Sponsor Rep. Stevens
 Requester House C&RA Committee Component No. _____

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

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Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

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

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0
 Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

Prepared by: Lorali Carter Phone 465-6588
 Division: Committee Aide, House C&RA Date/Time 2/19/02 9:30 AM
 Approved: Reps. Meyer & Morgan Date: 2/19/02
 Agency: Co-chairs, H. CRA Committee

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: SSHB 289
 (H) Publish Date: 2/19/02

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): 2/19/02 Dept. Affected: _____
 Title: Municipal Manager Plan BRU: _____
 Component: _____
 Sponsor: Rep. Stevens
 Requester: House C&RA Committee Component No. _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

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

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Lorali Carter Phone 465-6588
 Division: Committee Aide, House C&RA Date/Time 2/19/02 9:30 AM
 Approved: Reps. Meyer & Morgan Date: 2/19/02
 Agency: Co-chairs, H. CRA Committee

Alaska State Legislature

SESSION ADDRESS:
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
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Fax: (907) 465-3517
Toll Free: 1-800-821-4925




INTERIM ADDRESS:
112 Mill Bay Road
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
(907) 486-4925
Fax: (907) 486-5264

Representative Gary Stevens

MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Gene Therriault
Chair, Senate State Affairs Committee

From: Representative Gary Stevens 

Date: April 12, 2002

Re: HB 289

I respectfully request a committee hearing on HB 289, "Effective Date of a Municipal Manager Plan and the Repeal of a Municipal Manager Plan" be scheduled at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

HB

299

The Alaska Historical Commission

Since 1993 the Alaska Historical Commission has served as the geographic names board for the State of Alaska. Its powers, duties, and authority in the naming of geographic features in Alaska are defined in Alaska Statute 41.35.350. The commission has been directed to:

- determine the correct and most appropriate names of geographic features in the state and their spelling;
- pass upon and give names to geographic features in the state for which no single generally acceptable name has been in use;
- cooperate with the local subdivisions of government and, with their approval, change the names of geographic features to eliminate duplication of names in the state;
- serve as the state representative of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names and cooperate with that board so that there is no conflict between state and federal designations of geographic features in the state.

In addition, the statute directs the Alaska Historical Commission to consider using Alaska Native place names for geographic features in the state that have not been named.



Guidelines

The Alaska Historical Commission has established guidelines which it uses along with the policies of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

§ Local Usage

- The name has been used for years by the community
- The name is supported by local residents and there is published evidence of verbal or written usage

§ Descriptive Names

- The name is relevant to and descriptive of the feature
- The name is not in use elsewhere in the region

§ Commemorative Names

- The individual has been deceased for at least five years
- The person made a noteworthy contribution to Alaska
- The individual had a direct, long term association with the feature
- The name is supported by residents of nearby communities

§ Historical Names

- The authenticity of the name can be established
- The name is clearly associated with the area

§ Alaska Native Names

- The name is in common local usage
- The name is linguistically appropriate to the area in which it is to be applied
- The name is pronounceable without considerable difficulty
- The land owner, if on Native land, supports the proposed name in writing

§ Name Changes

- The current official name is derogatory to any radical, ethnic, gender, or religious group

- The current official name is duplicative and causing confusion
- Evidence of extensive local support by authorities and residents is provided

§ Other

- There is an overriding need to name a feature within a wilderness area (for purposes of safety, education, or area administration), and the land manager has been consulted and given the opportunity to comment on the proposed name
- An existing name is applied to a related feature, *i.e.* the name of a mountain is applied to an unnamed glacier that is part of it
- A spelling that includes diacritical marks includes substantial evidence of active local use, such as official records, maps, and signs, in the area where the feature is located

Application Process

Applicants are encouraged to study the guidelines before they complete an application. Supplemental information, such as letters from community leaders, area residents, and local organizations, is often helpful.

Prior to review by the Alaska Historical Commission, staff contact appropriate land managers, Native corporations and councils, and communities to obtain comments on proposed names. The Alaska Historical Commission meets three times a year.

The commission's recommendation is forwarded with the proposal to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names for review. The U.S. Board sets national policies and procedures relating to both domestic and foreign place names. It is the final word on choice, spelling, and official use of place names in the U.S.

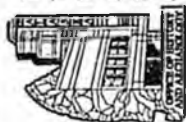
The process of naming a geographic feature takes at least a year.

Alaska's Place Names

Alaska's Native people, along with explorers and settlers from Europe and America, gave names to many Alaskan communities and geographic features. A record of these geographic names can be found in the *Dictionary of Alaska Place Names* by Donald Orth (1967) and *Alaska Place Names* by Alan Edward Schorr (1991).

Not all features in the state have been named. Naming geographic features needs to be done carefully and thoughtfully. Place names should identify significant places. Reasons to name a feature include safety, education, and area administration. It is important that a proposed name have an association with the location.

The Alaska Historical Commission, a citizen board of the State of Alaska, reviews names proposed for lakes, streams, mountains, and other physical features in the state. The commission coordinates its program with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.



The Alaska Historical Commission
The Office of History and Archaeology
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, AK 99501-3565
(907) 269-8721, Fax (907) 269-8908
oha@alaska.net



ALASKA'S GEOGRAPHIC NAMES PROGRAM

A responsibility of the
ALASKA
HISTORICAL COMMISSION



24 AS 45.98;

25 (13) determine the correct and most appropriate names of the lakes,
26 streams, places, and other geographic features in the state and their spelling;

27 (14) pass upon and give names to lakes, streams, places, and other
28 geographic features in the state for which no single generally acceptable name has
29 been in use;

30 (15) cooperate with local subdivisions of government and, with their
31 approval, change the names of lakes, streams, places, and other geographic features to
01 eliminate duplication of names in the state;

02 (16) prepare and publish an official state dictionary of geographic
03 names and publish it for sale, either as a complete whole or in parts when ready; and

04 (17) serve as the state representatives of the United States Board on
05 Geographic Names and cooperate with that board; where the official state and
06 federal names of a lake, stream, place, or other geographic feature differ, the
07 commission shall propose to the board that the board change the federal name to
08 match the state name [SO THAT THERE IS NO CONFLICT BETWEEN THE
09 STATE AND FEDERAL DESIGNATIONS OF GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES IN
10 THE STATE].

11 * Sec. 2. AS 41.35.350(b) is amended to read: *approve proposed* are in local use, are descriptive, or

12 (b) In carrying out its duties to name geographic features under this section,
13 the commission shall select names that have a direct connection with Alaska or
14 Alaska's peoples. The commission shall review requests for changes to existing
15 official names of geographic features to identify the names that do not have a
16 direct connection with Alaska or Alaska's peoples, review alternative names that
17 have been used for the places, and ^{approve} ~~select~~ the places with names that have a
18 direct connection with Alaska or Alaska's peoples. The commission shall consider
19 using Alaska Native place names for geographic features in the state [THAT HAVE
20 NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN NAMED], using Native language writing systems
21 accepted by the Alaska Native Language Center of the University of Alaska at
22 Fairbanks. For purposes of this subsection, a name that has a direct connection
23 with Alaska or Alaska's peoples

24 (1) commemorates a person who was present in and had a
25 significant role in the area of the feature being named;

26 (2) has been used in the region of the geographic feature or by
27 local Alaska Natives;

28 (3) is particularly descriptive of the geographic feature; or

29 (4) describes a significant event that happened in the vicinity of the
30 geographic feature.

31 * Sec. 3. AS 41.35.350(c) is amended to read:

01 (c) When the commission gives a name to a lake, stream, place, or other
02 geographic feature in the state, the name is the official name of the geographic feature
03 and shall be used in all maps, records, documents, and other publications issued by the
04 state or its departments and political subdivisions. The commission shall establish a
05 policy regarding the use of English translations of non-English words and
06 whether translations, where included, should be considered a part of the official
07 name. When the official name under this section differs from the official federal
08 name, both official names shall be used, with the federal name in parentheses.

are in local use, are descriptive or
Better wording for section:
The commission shall establish policies for changing official names of geographic features that give priority to names in local use, descriptive names, and names with a direct connection to Alaska or Alaska's peoples.

Bill Text



BILL ID: HB 299

00 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 299 (RES)
01 "An Act providing for the naming and renaming of Alaska geographic features."
02 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
03 * Section 1. AS 41.35.350(a) is amended to read:
04 (a) The duties of the commission are to
05 (1) survey, evaluate, and catalog Alaska prehistory and history
06 materials now in print;
07 (2) ascertain and register what Alaska prehistory and history work is
08 now in progress;
09 (3) identify the existing gaps in the coverage of Alaska's past in
10 presently available published works and establish priorities for bridging them;
11 (4) prepare a thematic study of Alaska's history for historic
12 preservation;
13 (5) identify the sources of Alaska's history;
14 (6) coordinate the production and publication of works that will
15 adequately present all aspects of Alaska's past;
01 (7) cooperate with the federal government in programs relating to
02 history and archaeology;
03 (8) develop criteria for the evaluation of state monuments and historic
04 sites and all real and personal property that may be considered to be of historic,
05 prehistoric, or archeological significance as would justify their acquisition and
06 ownership by the state;
07 (9) cooperate with the department in formulating and administering a
08 statewide historic sites survey under 16 U.S.C. 470-470n (P.L. 89-665, National
09 Historic Preservation Act of 1966);
10 (10) review those surveys and historic preservation plans that may be
11 required, and approve properties for nomination to the National Register as provided
12 for in 16 U.S.C. 470-470n (P.L. 89-665, National Historic Preservation Act of 1966);
13 (11) provide necessary assistance to the governor and the legislature
14 for achieving balanced and coordinated state policies and programs for the
15 preservation of the state's historic, prehistoric, and archeological resources;
16 (12) consult with local historical district commissions regarding the
17 establishment of historical districts under AS 29.55.010 - 29.55.020 and the approval
18 of project alterations under AS 45.98.040; recommend, if appropriate, the formulation
19 of additional criteria for the designation of historical districts under AS 29.55.020(b);
20 approve plans for and evaluate the suitability of specific structures for purposes of
21 loan eligibility and continuance under the historical district revolving loan fund
22 (AS 45.98); and consult with the Department of Community and Economic
23 Development relative to the adoption of regulations for historical district loans under

Alaska Historical Society



P.O. Box 100299
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-0299
Phone (907) 276-1596/E-Mail:ahs@alaska.net
www.alaska.net/~ahs

AHS 2002-1: Urging the Alaska State Senate to not pass HB 299, "An Act providing for the naming and renaming of Alaska geographic features"

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Alaska Historical Society is a statewide organization that works closely with and supports the work of the agencies, boards and commissions created by the State of Alaska to carry out the essential work to preserve, protect and interpret Alaska's rich heritage, and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Historical Commission is a citizen's board of the State of Alaska that advises the Governor and the Alaska State Legislature on matters of concern regarding Alaska's history, and on which the Alaska Historical Society has two representatives, and

WHEREAS, House Bill 299 to name and rename Alaska geographic features has been proposed in the 22nd Alaska Legislature and passed by the House of Representatives, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Alaska Historical Society discussed HB 299 at its May 1, 2002 meeting and expressed concerns about having two sets of maps (federal and state), the lack of evidence of support for the legislation from constituents who would be impacted by the legislation including search and rescue personnel and visitor organizations, the lack of a public process included in the bill before names are changed, and the failure to provide any funding to carry out what is mandated by the legislation,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Historical Society opposes HB 299 in its present form and urges members of the Alaska State Senate to not vote for it.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to all members of the Alaska State Senate.

Candy Waugaman 5/3/02

Candy Waugaman, President Date

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Candy Waugaman, Fairbanks
Geoffrey Bleakley, Copper Center
Michael Burwell, Anchorage
Mike Dunning, Ketchikan
Karl Gurcke, Skagway
Steve Haycox, Anchorage
Bob King, Juneau
Gretchen Lake, Fairbanks

Dec Longenbaugh, Juneau
Mike Martz, Bethel
Dorothy Moore, Valdez
Phyllis Movius, Fairbanks
Kay Shelton, Juneau
Barbara Smith, Anchorage
Vicki Wisenbaugh, Tenakee Springs

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION ALASKA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

550 W. 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 1310
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3565
PHONE: (907) 269-8721
FAX: (907) 269-8908

April 5, 2002

Re: 3050-2

Representative Fred Dyson
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Dyson:

Thank you for meeting with the members of the Alaska Historical Commission in February and discussing with them HB 299 and HCR 32. Later in the day commission members continued their discussion of the bill and asked me to write you.

Commission members appreciate your interest in Alaska's place names. They do not, however, view your proposed legislation favorably. They said a process is in place to appeal decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names that differ from those made by the Alaska Historical Commission. They said they have adopted guidelines that encourage the use of names that recognize Alaskans. Names for someone with little association with Alaska do not meet the commission's guidelines or the U.S. Board's policies and procedures. They do not believe state statute is the correct place for such detail.

The idea of including the translation of a Native name for a place troubled several commission members. They said people have always had to learn how to pronounce place names, citing Valdez as an example. They expect many Alaska Natives would object to using a translated phrase instead of the known and recognized Native word for a place. Commission members also said that recognizing phrases as official names would create difficulties for map makers and unnecessarily clutter maps.

Commission members expressed concern over having two sets of maps, one with state names and the other with federal names. First, this would be an expense to the State of Alaska. It would necessitate creation of new maps and a cross-index. It would be unpopular with, and a source of confusion for, visitor businesses, travelers, search and rescue personnel, transportation companies, and scientists and researchers.

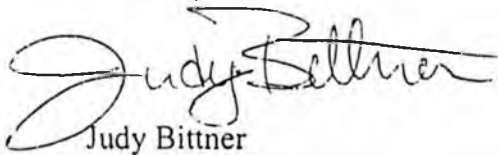
Representative Fred Dyson
April 5, 2002
Page 2

Admittedly, the program for reviewing existing names is limited to changing derogatory names and correcting those called to the commission's attention as erroneous, such as 'correctly applying Deshka River. A proposal to change a name simply because it is not for an Alaskan or an Alaskan name has little chance of success with the state or federal name boards. Funds for someone to do the research and build the community consensus needed to change a name are not available. No one has come forward with a name that would be recognized and used by people to replace Prudhoe Bay, for example.

Members of the Alaska Historical Commission would like to work with you. They hope you will seek opportunities to encourage and fund the place name research programs of the Alaska Native Language Center, non-profit organizations such as Sealaska Heritage Foundation, or provide funds to the Alaska Historical Commission to contract for such studies. They also encourage you to submit applications for place names you strongly believe need to be corrected or changed.

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with the members of the Alaska Historical Commission. If you wish to discuss the members' concerns, please call me at 907-269-8715.

Sincerely,



Judy Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer

Alaska Historical Commission
Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer, Chair

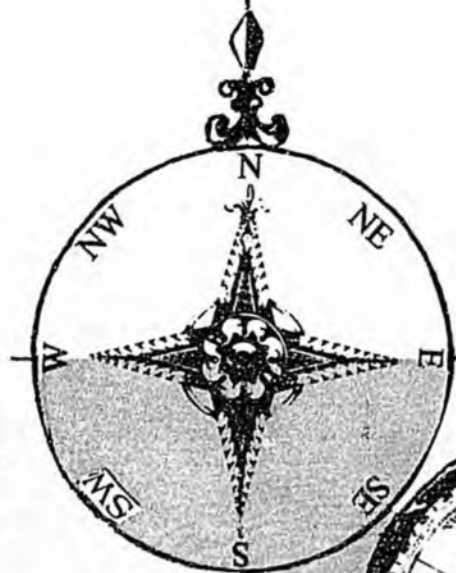
Beverly Beeton, Anchorage
Judith E. Bittner, State Historic Preservation Officer
John P. Cook, Fairbanks
Emily DeForest, Kenai

Terry Hyer, Anchorage
Shirley Kendall, Anchorage
Mary C. Mangusso, Fairbanks
Tom Taylor, Anchorage

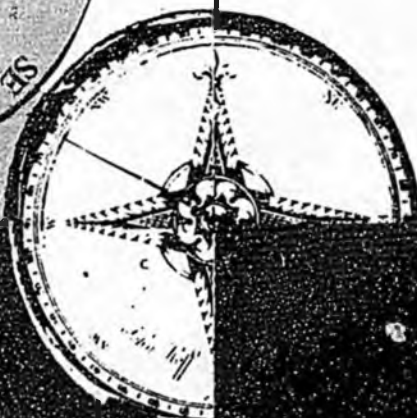
AT The Print Shop
SSTA

2001-02
HB 299

PRINCIPLES,
POLICIES, AND
PROCEDURES:
Domestic Geographic Names



U.S. Board on Geographic Names



1997



Alaska State Legislature

- Interim (May-Dec.) -
10928 Eagle River Rd., Suite 140
Eagle River, Alaska 99577
☎ (907) 694-6683
FAX (907) 694-1015

- Session (Jan-May) -
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
☎ (907) 465-2199
FAX (907) 465-4587

Toll free (800) 342-2199

REPRESENTATIVE FRED DYSON

MEMORANDUM

April 30, 2002

To: Senator Gene Therriault, Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee

From: Fred Dyson
State Representative

RE: Request for consideration of HB 299 with HJR 32

HB 299 authorizes the Office of History & Archaeology to rename geographic locations that are appropriately Alaskan.

HJR 32 requests the US Department of Interior to cooperate with AK renaming efforts.

I respectfully request that you schedule HB 299 with HJR 32 at your convenience.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Dyson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

- E-mail -
Representative_Fred_Dyson
@Legis.state.ak.us

- Internet -
<http://www.akrepublicans.org>



Alaska State Legislature

- Interim (May-Dec.) -
10928 Eagle River Rd., Suite 140
Eagle River, Alaska 99577
☎ (907) 694-6683
FAX (907) 694-1015

- Session (Jan.-May) -
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
☎ (907) 465-2199
FAX (907) 465-4587

Toll free (800) 342-2199

REPRESENTATIVE FRED DYSON

HB 299/ HJR 32 Sponsor Statement

Relating to Alaskan Names for Alaska Places

Updated: March 26, 2002

Contact: Representative Dyson's office at (907) 465-2199

The names of Alaska's geographical features come from a variety of sources, many of which have no connection or relevance to Alaska or its peoples.

HB 299 will allow the State Place Names Commission to begin to substitute relevant Alaskan names that are local Alaskan Native names, honor a local citizen, honor a famous Alaskan, uniquely describe an identifying feature, or describe a local event.

A companion resolution, HJR 32, encourages the US Geological Bureau to follow the lead of the State Agency in renaming the features on Federal maps and documents.

"Many of Alaska's geographical names were given by European explorers to honor a benefactor or curry favor with some powerful politician or ruler. Some of these people never saw Alaska or made any contribution to it. Most of the European explorers had no concept of recognizing the contributions and names used by Alaska's Native people who had been here for at least 10,000 years. Some of the American, Asian, Canadian, and European settlers who later came to Alaska made profound contributions to Alaska. It is far more fitting that our geographical place names should honor its people instead of the Alma Mater of some rich tourist on a quasi-scientific expedition. HB 299 encourages the Alaska Naming Commission to do the research and suggest more appropriate ALASKAN names.

Alaskans tend to give rivers, bays, glaciers, mountains and lakes far more descriptive names than did the Europeans. "Purgatory Creek" and "Murder Lake", are descriptive of conditions and events. "Looks like a Neck" is far more apropos than "Bainbridge Passage". "Place of the Last Great Battle" is much more colorful than "Green Lake".

Under the Alaska Native Lands Claim Act, Section H, a group under the US Department of the Interior, has done extensive work researching Native place names. The Native Language School at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks also has a large amount of similar information.

HB 299 will begin a public process that will hopefully result in more appropriate Alaska place names and the honoring of the native and non-native people who actually lived here or made a contribution to Alaska. We have too long a history of people from somewhere else coming here and taking our furs, gold, timber, fish, and oil and going back south. At least, with this legislation, we have a chance to take back some of our geographical names.

- E-mail -
Representative_Fred_Dyson
@Legis.state.ak.us

- Internet -
<http://www.akRepublicans.org>

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: HJR 32
 (H) Publish Date: 3/27/02

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: _____
 Title Federal Place Names BRU _____
 Sponsor Representative Dyson Component _____
 Requester _____ Component No. _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

1002 Federal Receipts						
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1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0
 Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

Prepared by: Bill Lawrence staff Phone _____
 Division: House Community and Regional Affairs Committee Date/Time 3/26/02 5:59 PM
 Approved by: Representative Carl Morgan Date 3/26/02
 Agency: Co-chair, House Community and Regional Affairs

Alaska Historical Commission
Office of History & Archaeology
Alaska Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565
907-269-8721
e-mail oha@alaska.net

ALASKA HISTORICAL COMMISSION GUIDELINES FOR GEOGRAPHIC NAME PROPOSALS

Local usage

Local usage is the single, best reason to name a geographic feature. Local usage refers to a feature name that has evolved over a period of years, is called that name by the community or area as a whole, and is supported by local petitions, diaries, oral histories, and documents or other publications. A feature named by the applicant is not considered local usage, even when the applicant has called the feature by that name for a number of years.

The Alaska Historical Commission will consider if:

- the proposal includes published evidence of verbal or written usage, petitions signed by local residents, and resolutions or letters of support from government entities and community groups

Descriptive names (includes features named by applicant)

The Alaska Historical Commission will consider if:

- the name is relevant and descriptive of the feature
- the name is not in use elsewhere in the region
- the name is in good taste and not frivolous

Commemorative names (please read the following page)

The Alaska Historical Commission will consider if:

- the individual has been deceased for five (5) years and evidence of this is provided
- the individual made a significant contribution to Alaska
- the individual had a direct, long term association with the feature
- evidence of local support by authorities and residents is provided

Historical names

The Alaska Historical Commission will consider if:

- the authenticity of the name can be established
- the name is clearly associated with the area

Native American names

The Alaska Historical Commission will consider if:

- the name is in common local use and that use is documented
- the name is pronounceable without considerable difficulty
- the name is linguistically appropriate to the area in which it is to be applied
- the land owner, if on Native land, supports the proposed name in writing

Alaska Historical Commission
Office of History & Archaeology
Alaska Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565
(907) 269-8721
E-Mail: <ohs@alaska.net>

Name changes

The Alaska Historical Commission will consider if:

- the current official name is derogatory to any racial, ethnic, gender, or religious group
- the current official name is duplicative and causing confusion
- evidence of extensive local support by authorities and residents is provided



Other

The Alaska Historical Commission will consider if:

- there is an overriding need to name a feature within a wilderness area (for purposes of safety, education, or area administration), and the land manager has been consulted and given the opportunity to comment on the proposed name
- an existing name is applied to a related feature, *i.e.* the name of a mountain is applied to an unnamed glacier that is part of it
- a spelling that includes diacritical marks includes substantial evidence of active local use, such as official records, maps, and signs, in the area where the feature is located

All proposals must be accompanied by relevant U.S. Geological Survey 1:63,360 or 1:25,000 scale topographical maps. The feature to be named must be marked on the map. The applicant must clearly express reasons why the feature needs to be named. Photographs and other identifying aids are useful, but not required. Evidence of local support, in the form of letters, petitions, and newspaper articles and letters to the editor, showing public awareness and endorsement of the proposed name is encouraged.

COMMEMORATIVE NAMES

A commemorative name of a geographic feature is to honor and recognize an individual who has made an outstanding or noteworthy contribution to an area or the state, or is a national or international figure. A commemorative place name is not intended to memorialize a family member or friend.

Proposals containing a given name (first or last) or nickname of an individual are considered commemorative. The full name of a person as part of a geographic name normally is not approved unless surname use alone would be ambiguous.

The person must have been deceased *for at least five (5) years* before the Alaska Historical Commission will consider the proposal. An obituary and biography of the individual must be part of the proposal.

The person should have a *direct association* with the feature, or have made a *significant contribution* to the area in which it is located.

Alaska Historical Commission
Office of History & Archaeology
Alaska Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565
507-269-8721
e-mail oha@alaska.net

Direct association. The individual should have been physically present at, or in the vicinity of, the feature for several years; or engaged in some activity that affected the feature; or spent a great deal of time at or in the vicinity of the feature. A person's death on or at a feature, such as a mountaineering accident or plane crash, or the mere ownership of land or the feature, does not normally meet this criterion. Similarly, recreational use of or visits to a feature does not normally meet this criterion.

Significant contribution. The contribution that the individual has made must be notable, of consequence, and have had a noticeable impact on the community, region or state. A significant contribution is an extraordinary effort, achievement, or impact. It may come from the individual's work, professional or civic activities, and can be in the social, political, economic, scientific, or cultural areas. The significant contribution should have benefitted Alaskans beyond the individual's immediate circle of family and friends. Generally, these individuals will have been recognized through a letter of thanks from the Governor, certificates of appreciation from an agency or group, awards, newspaper articles featuring the contribution made, dedication of local man-made features (park, street, garden, building), inclusion in *Who's Who*, etc. The individual might be a historical figure.

Features can be named for persons who made a significant contribution nationally or internationally, especially if the individual made advancements in the area of global peace or cooperation, made the nation or planet a better place to live, or made an exceptional and unique contribution to the nation or planet in the social, political, economic, scientific, or cultural areas. In such instances, the requirement of direct association does not need to be met.

Commemorative name proposals must include evidence of local support by authorities and residents attesting to the individual's association with the feature and significant contribution.

[1/23/98]

HB

300

House Committees

Labor & Commerce
Military & Veterans Affairs
State Affairs
Regulation Review

Alaska State Legislature
Representative
Joe Hayes

119 N. Cushman, Ste. 205
Fairbanks, AK 99701
(907) 456-7423 / Fax: 451-9293

While in Juneau
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-3466 / Fax: 465-2937

Memorandum

To: Senator Gene Therriault, Chair Senate State Affairs Committee
From: Representative Joe Hayes *JH*
Date: April 22, 2002
RE: HB 300, Procurement of Travel Services

I respectfully request that you schedule HB 300, an Act relating to the procurement of certain travel services. This important bill helps give travel agencies throughout the state and in the Fairbanks area the chance to survive. HB 300 passed the House 36-1. I have attached all pertinent materials. Enclosed is a letter from Commissioner Jim Duncan that asserts the necessity of passing this bill before the end of session. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to call me.

District 30

representative_joe_hayes@legis.state.ak.us

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)
Date Referred to Committee: January 14, 2002

FURTHER REFERRALS: Finance

Date of Committee Action: 21 Feb 02

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered:

HB 300

HOUSE BILL NO. 300

PROCUREMENT OF TRAVEL SERVICES

"An Act relating to the procurement of certain travel services."

Recommends it be replaced with CS () [] Same Title [] New Title
For Senate Bills with new title: [] Technical Title [] New Title: HCR _____

- [] attach amendments
- [] add new referral to _____ Committee
- [] Letter of Intent _____ Committee

List of Abbrev. for Depts.:
ADM
CED
COR
CRT
EED
DEC
DFG
GOV
HSS
LAA
LAW
LWF
MVA
DNR
DPS
REV
DOT
UA

<u>NEW FISCAL NOTES</u>				
*For Chief Clerk's Office Use Only				
List by Dept(s):	*FN#	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero
<u>ALL</u>			✓	

<u>PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTES</u>				
List by Dept(s):	FN#	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero

<u>Signing with recommendations</u>	Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
	Wilson	✓			
	STEVE CRAWFORD	✓			
	Hayes	✓			
Chair:	Coyne	✓			
Chair:	Coyne	✓			

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

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

January 15, 2002

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary of HB 300 relating to the procurement of certain travel services (Work Order No. 22-LS1195\A)

TO: Representative Joe Hayes
Attn: Melinda

FROM: ^{JB} Theresa L. Bannister
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.

Section 1. Provides legislative findings and intent for the bill.

Section 2. Excludes from the state's procurement code (AS 36.30) contracts for travel services, except for motor vehicle rentals.

Section 3. States that sec. 2 of the bill does not apply to ongoing contracts entered into before the effective date of the Act.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

TLB:med
02-008.med

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HB 300
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): (Rev. 4/8/02) Dept. Affected: All
 Title An Act relating to the procurement of certain travel services. BRU All
 Component All
 Sponsor Representative Hayes
 Requester House Finance Component No. All

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	*	*	*	*	*	*

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

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

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	*	*	*	*	*	*

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

With the recent round commission cuts, most airlines are now paying no commissions to travel agents. This situation will effectively end the ability of travel agents to waive fees for state travel. To address this change under current procurement law requires competitive solicitation which will culminate in contract awards to a single travel agent in each location where we currently do not have contracts.

HB 300 would eliminate the requirement for competitive procurements and allow the State to set a reasonable threshold that could be paid to all travel agents in locations without current contracts. The difference between this threshold and a competitively procured fee is impossible to predict, but the \$8 estimate used on the original fiscal note is a conservative guess. The number of tickets purchased in 2001 on which fees were waived was 28,599. At \$8 per ticket, the estimated savings of competitively procuring travel agent services is \$228,792.

Prepared by: Vern Jones Phone 465-5684
 Division: Division of General Services Date/Time 04/08/02
 Approved by: Jim Duncan, Commissioner Date 4/8/2002
 Agency: Department of Administration

HB 300 Testimony
House State Affairs hearing
2/21/02 8:00 am

Room 102 Capital

Hello, my name is Kim Garner and I work as the director of finance in the Department of Administration.

I am not an expert on procurement issues, but I am familiar with the business relationship between the State of Alaska and travel agencies.

State government has a long history of relying on the private sector for professional travel services. Until a few years ago, these services were free to travelers because travel agencies relied on commissions from the travel providers such as airlines and hotels. Because no public funds were spent for these services, each state office was able to use the travel agent of their choice and strong loyalties developed.

In October 1999, airlines cut travel agent commissions from 8% to 5%. This 37.5% reduction was an early step in a trend that has continued to place severe economic pressure on travel agents. With ever declining commissions from airlines, more and more travel agencies have responded by initiating fees for their services.

When fees are introduced for travel services, the issue of competitive procurement arises. The State of Alaska spends over \$16 million a year on airline tickets; a fee as low as 1% results in \$160,000 spent statewide for services. Current procurement law requires formal competitive bids for purchases of this size. The result is that all state travel purchases are then made from the successful bidder.

Our policy has been to obtain travel agent services without paying fees whenever possible. To that end, the Department of Administration has maintained a web site listing travel agents willing to provide services free of charge to State agencies. State agencies may use any of the travel agencies listed or any other travel agency willing to waive fees for their business.

In communities where no travel agencies were willing to provide free services, we competitively established a travel agent contract in accordance with the Procurement Code. This has resulted in single award contracts for the communities of Juneau, Wrangell, Petersburg, Haines, Cordova, Seward, and Dillingham. Fees paid under these contracts range from \$5 to \$20 for an airline ticket.

Effects of the bill

If this legislation passes, travel related services would be exempted from the procurement code. In that case, the Department of Administration will meet with industry representatives to establish a reasonable fee schedule, which will become the "benchmark" for doing business with the State.



Northern Lights Travel

606 Old Steese Hwy., Suite 117 • Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone (907) 451-7111 • 1-800-478-7048 • Fax (907) 451-8701

January 31, 2002

Representative Joe Hayes
(907) 465-2937 FAX

Dear Mr. Hayes,

I would like to lend my support to HB300. Travel agencies are facing greater financial challenges every year as the airlines continue to decrease our commissions. Service fees are a must for travel agencies to continue to survive.

The STATE should NOT be exempt from paying for services from any business. We provide a valuable service. I do not want to see our public servants wasting time and money trying to be travel agents, when a call to a professional and efficient travel agent can have a state employee off the phone and the internet in minutes. Currently the State does not pay for the service of ticket delivery or the additional time spent if a ticket has to be changed and reissued.

Thank you, Mr. Hayes for supporting HB300. Please let me know if I can assist, in any way, to help pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Northern Lights Travel
Yulanda Johansen, CTC
Owner

Alaska Native Owned

Email: yulanda@northernlightstravel.com

Letters of Support 2002



Vagabond Travel

January 29, 2002

Representative Joe Hayes
907/465 2927 Fax

Dear Mr. Hayes;

I would like to lend my support to HB300. Travel agencies are facing great financial challenges as we see our airline commissions shrinking with every passing year. Service fees have become a way of life in the travel agent industry and without them few of us could remain in business. The state should not be exempt from paying for services from any business. We provide a great service, as anyone who has sat on hold with the airlines or fumbled through an internet booking can attest to. Quite frankly, I do not want to see our public servants wasting time and money trying to be travel agents, when a call to a professional and efficient travel agent can have a state employee off the phone in minutes. The state does not even pay for the service of ticket delivery or the additional time spent if a ticket has to be changed and reissued.

My hat is off to you Mr. Hayes, please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything further I can do in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Ramona Oxendine
Manager/partner



SENATOR KIM ELTON

F

March 5, 2002

Mrs. Cassandra Ritter Days
PO Box 33716
Juneau, Alaska 99803

Dear Cassandra:

Thanks for your letter concerning the travel industry in Alaska. Small business is an important part of the Alaskan economy and it's discouraging to see that executive and legislative actions may have had a negative impact on small travel businesses in order to save approximately 2 percent on the cost of state travel.

It is not good for our economy to simply focus on the 2 percent and not reflect on what ripples through the private sector. I wanted to let you know that Representative Joe Hayes (D-Fairbanks) has introduced a bill that will eliminate this procurement process for the for travel agents. I've attached the copy of Rep. Hayes' bill, HB 300. Please call my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Senator Kim Elton

cc: Representative Hayes



907-522-1299

F

March 1, 2002

Representative Joe Hayes
Alaska State Capitol, Room 422
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hayes:

Thank you for sponsoring House Bill (HB) 300. I also want to thank other members of the House State Affairs Committee for their approval of the legislation on February 21, 2002. Airlines Online & Travel Services Network, Inc (Airlines Online) supports passage of HB 300.

Airlines Online is a full-service travel agency certified by the Airlines Reporting Corporation (ARC). We have been headquartered in Anchorage since 1992. Airlines Online provides both traditional and internet based travel and travel management services on a global basis for corporate, government, and leisure clientele. First and foremost, our professional staff provide unparalleled customer service. Airlines Online is a member of the Alaska Business Travel Association, American Society of Travel Agents, and other travel organizations.

I learned about this legislation by viewing a video of the February 21 hearing. If enacted, HB 300 will amend AS 36.30 to allow travel agencies to charge service fees for travel services purchased by state employees. Director Kim Garner, Division of Finance, testified the legislation would not sever existing travel agency/state fee based contracts currently in force in a few communities.

At the hearing, Director Garner also clarified the fiscal note for an \$8 roundtrip ticket service fee was an estimate and indicated it was still subject to input from travel industry representatives. **Airlines Online requests to be among the industry representatives queried for input by the legislature and Director Garner regarding the fiscal note and bill language.** Airlines Online would also appreciate being informed of future hearings in the House and Senate related to this legislation.

Airlines Online suggests HB 300 should include a provision requiring the state to establish a minimum standard for mandatory data reporting by all travel agencies

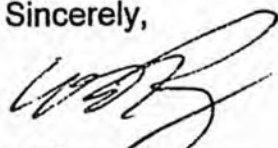
authorized to sell travel to state employees and assess fees. This reporting requirement would generate information needed by state managers to evaluate whether employees purchased fares in compliance with travel parameters established by the state. Such a standard would also enable the state to better monitor whether travel agencies are offering lowest logical fares meeting state travel regulations and policies. These types of record keeping and reporting requirements are currently used for our corporate clientele. The federal government mandates similar requirements.

Please keep in mind that reporting requirements are not intended to make a travel agency into an enforcer of state policies. Instead, they merely require travel agencies to supply reports to the state on a timely basis that identify the costs of the lowest logical fares offered to employees by a travel agency versus the costs of the tickets employees actually chose to purchase. Based on our experiences with other clientele, this reporting can lead to tremendous savings and better adherence to travel policies. There are similar advantages associated with ticket purchases from travel agencies versus direct purchases from air carriers.

Airlines Online also recommends the state reassess its general travel policies to insure they are current and more likely to result in lowest logical fare purchases.

I look forward to contributing to the fiscal note discussions and learning when the next hearing will be held. Please let me know if you require additional information.

Sincerely,



William Beck
President
Bbeck@airlinesonline.com

cc: House State Affairs Committee
House Finance Committee
Representative Brian Porter, House Speaker
Senator Rick Halford, Senate President
Governor Tony Knowles
Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer
Jim Duncan, Commissioner of Administration
Kim Garnero, Director of Finance

22February02

House State Affairs
To Representative John B. Coghill, Jr.

House Bill 300

Your statewide travel agency network must implement service fees against the State of Alaska's travel procurement. This implementation is primarily a result of the airline industries commission cuts and subsequent cuts made by related travel industry options.

We believe these fees ultimately save money. We are an unbiased travel source. The airline industry wants to remove itself from the "high rent" computer systems we have and become solely an internet commodity. At that point, price comparisons, itinerary options, and change options become extremely limited and expensive, with Dracula in control of the blood bank.

Sweetwater Travel has been a vital and successful travel agency for over fifteen years, supporting our community and state with revenues and payrolls. We would like to keep our revenue intact, and in the State of Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration of this house bill.

Sincerely,

Carol Callahan *Carol Callahan*
Marty Fisher *Marty Fisher*
Sweetwater Travel - Partners

CC: Representative Joe L. Hayes

Cyndi's**Cruise and Travel**

February 13, 2002

HB 258

I am writing this in response to a bill that is going to be proposed. We are totally against this bill because it is unfair to businesses that only earn a portion of the gross sales. As most of you know, the travel industry has changed drastically. The airlines have cut our commissions down to 5% of the gross base fare without taxes and on top of that, it's capped at \$20.00. That is the most money we can make on an airline ticket. If this bill is passed, it will cause our agency to close its doors as well as most other travel agencies in Alaska. Please reconsider passing such a financially devastating bill that will ruin the small businesses of Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cyndi Isaak". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Cyndi Isaak, Owner

415-5th Street • Douglas, Alaska 99824

Phone: 907-364-3435 • Fax: 907-364-3475

e-mail: cyndi-travel@gci.net

Becky's Travel Services
3035 Mountainwood Circle
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 789-5576

Re: Bill 300

I am Becky with Becky's Travel Service and I have been in the Travel Industry for 18 years. With the commission cuts and losing my state travel, I don't know how long I will be able to stay in business. Most of my revenue comes from State Travel and my clients were forced to go through only one agency. That made things really hard on my business. I hope this bill gets passed so they can choose who they prefer to use and help all the agencies stay in business.

Sincerely,
Becky Thomas

January 14, 2002



To: Rep. Hayes
FAX: 907 465-2937

F

From: Carol Callahan, Owner/Partner
Sweetwater Travel
FAX: 907 452-2154

Subject: House Bill No. 300

House bill sounds great. Short and sweet and shows all of the agencies intent of using more than one provider and being able to charge fees, which are essential for the existence of smaller agencies. Hope it flies.

Carol Callahan

December 27, 2000

Kymm Bowthorpe
3262 Mendenhall Loop Rd. #2
Juneau, AK 99801
790-3282-h

Senator Kim Elton
State Capitol Room 504
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Mr. Elton,

I am writing to you today regarding an issue that I believe is a very serious one, the State of Alaska and its travel.

As a former travel consultant of 15 years, I have seen many arguments the state has made against putting its travel out to bid. Enclosed you will find a letter written by Fran Ulmer to our former governor, Walter Hickle, concerning the subject.

At this point I believe it is time for the state to make a major change. Several travel agencies in Juneau, as well as around the state, have gone out of business in the last couple of years. For some, it was due to the airlines cutting their commissions, for others it was a direct result of the states unwillingness to pay service fees in support of local businesses.

I have also enclosed a research paper that I have done on the subject. I do hope you will take the time to look it over. I believe this is a serious issue and one that needs your attention.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Kymm Bowthorpe

STATE OF ALASKA

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 110200
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0200
PHONE: (907) 465-2200
FAX: (907) 465-2135

April 5, 2002

AAA Travel
9191 Old Seward Hwy. # 20
Anchorage, AK 99515-2040

Dear Travel Agent:

The most recent round of commission cuts by airlines is forcing the State of Alaska to change the way it purchases travel. As you may know, unless we conduct a competitive procurement, the State is statutorily able to transact business only with travel agents who have agreed to waive fees for their services. Now that most airlines have quit paying commissions, we believe it is highly unlikely travel agents can continue waiving fees for state travel.

One strategy suggested by travel agents is to set a fee threshold that could be paid to any travel agent for state travel. This is not permissible under present procurement law, which requires competitively awarded contracts when the State expends money.

However, the legislature is considering House Bill 300, which would exempt travel services from the normal competitive requirements of the procurement law. Should HB 300 become law, we would have the option of working with travel agents to establish a fee threshold that could be paid by state agencies to any travel agent in locations where we have no existing contracts.

We continue to monitor the progress of HB 300; its ultimate fate will dictate the State's course of action.

In the meantime, we are preparing to pursue a competitive procurement for the locations where we presently have no contracts, in the event HB 300 or similar legislation fails to pass this session. These locations include Anchorage, Fairbanks, and several smaller communities. Under current law, this procurement would result in single vendors in each location. On April 18th, we will mail each travel agent in these locations a copy of the competitive solicitation.

I wanted to let you know where things stand in this fast-changing area. I understand recent changes have made your economic situation difficult. The State of Alaska benefits greatly from the services of professional travel agents. We hope to continue these positive relationships to most efficiently accomplish the mission of government.

Sincerely,



Jim Duncan
Commissioner

DOA Letter



Printed on recycled paper
by Alaska Litho, Inc.

Travel Agency Services Briefing Paper

Amber -
If you have
any questions,
please call
me - Kim
465-3435

Statement of the Problem:

State agencies cannot purchase travel agency services in some communities without paying fees. Payment of fees requires competitive bidding.

Discussion:

In October, airlines cut travel agent commissions from 8% to 5%. This 37.5% reduction was another step in a continuing trend that is putting severe economic pressure on travel agents. Many responded by initiating fees for their services.

State government has a long history of relying on the private sector for professional travel services. Because no public funds were spent for these services, each state office was able to use the travel agent of their choice and strong loyalties developed.

When fees were introduced for these services, the issue of competitive procurement arose. The State of Alaska spends over \$16 million a year on airline tickets; a fee as low as 1% results in \$160,000 spent for services. Likewise a fee of 5% would result in \$800,000 being spent for travel agent services. State law requires formal competitive bids for purchases of this size. Such a process would result in all state travel purchases being made from the limited number of successful bidders.

Actions Taken to Date:

In November, after receiving the recommendation of Administrative Solutions Team, we sent letters to 170 travel agents across the state asking if they would waive service fees for state purchases. Many have responded that they are willing to do so. These travel agencies have been posted to a Department of Administration, Division of Finance web site for use by state agencies in making travel purchases. Most communities where the state purchases travel have at least one travel agency listed, and urban areas have several. This approach has allowed us to avoid competitively bidding travel agency services in these communities and the ensuing impact that bidding would have on travel agencies that were not successful bidders.

Unfortunately, there are a few key communities where there are no travel agencies willing to waive service fees for state purchases. At this time, we are contemplating conducting competitive bids in Bethel, Cordova, Haines, Kotzebue, Nome, Petersburg and Wrangell. This would provide state employees in these locations the ability to obtain professional travel services locally while paying the lowest service fee possible. It would not preclude purchases using a 1-800 number or over the internet, two options that are becoming increasingly common, especially for routine commercial travel within Alaska.

The Administrative Solutions Team is currently reviewing the proposed locations as well as a draft "Request for Quotes" document. The criteria outlined in the RFQ requires the

Final

in Div of Finance

DOA Briefing Paper

travel agency to be licensed and bonded by the Airline Reporting Committee (ARC) and to maintain an office in the community. Feedback from state agencies on the draft document is expected by January 14th, and procurements could proceed before the end of January. 2000

Recommended Action:

Proceed with competitive bids in the proposed communities. Solicit every travel agency in each community. Contract awards would be mandatory for state travel purchases in that location when the services of a travel agent are used.

House Committees

Labor & Commerce
Military & Veterans Affairs
State Affairs
Regulation Review

Alaska State Legislature
Representative
Joe Hayes

119 N. Cushman, Ste. 205
Fairbanks, AK 99701
(907) 456-7423 / Fax: 451-9293

While in Juneau
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-3466 / Fax: 465-2937



Sponsor Statement HB 300

HB 300 will allow for the exemption of contracts for certain types of travel services including airplane travel, hotel accommodations and travel agency services from the procurement procedures of AS 36.30.

In February 2002, Alaska Airlines adopted a policy similar to other major airlines capping travel agent commissions from 5% of the total ticket price to \$10 and \$20 for one-way and roundtrip airline tickets, respectively. March 2002 brought even worse news to the agencies when the airlines declared that all airline commissions would cease. Alaska Airlines has not yet cut their commissions to travel agents, but it is expected that they will by May 2002. Due to the abatement of commissions, it has become necessary for many travel agencies to rely on agency fees to stay in business.

Since HB 300 will exempt certain travel services from the procurement procedures codified in AS 36.30, administrative agencies will be able to choose travel providers on a case-by-case basis. This will foster competition by allowing for the consideration of all agencies. The existence of competition is important to ensure the State will get the best price available. If we allow several travel agencies to go out of business, we can be certain a monopoly will ensue and the state will be forced to pay whatever price is set by the few existing agencies.

Passing the bill will give all travel agencies an opportunity to provide state travel, thus protecting and fostering Alaskan jobs and businesses. I ask for your support in passing this legislation.

District 30

representative_joe_hayes@legis.state.ak.us

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: HB 300
(H) Publish Date: 2/22/02

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: All
Title An Act relating to the procurement of certain BRU All
travel services Component All
Sponsor Representative Hayes
Requester House State Affairs Component No. All

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	*	*	*	*	*	*

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

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

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify)						
TOTAL	*	*	*	*	*	*

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0
Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Estimated impact is based on the following assumptions and calendar year 2001 data, provided by the State's travel card provider. The assumption is that state agencies will absorb the cost in existing budgets.

Total number of tickets purchased	49,308
less purchased direct from Airlines	<u>11,195</u>
Tickets purchased from travel agents	38,113
less tickets from contract travel agents (fees charged)	<u>9,514</u>
Tickets purchased from travel agents who waived fees	28,599
 Cost of paying fees for services currently received at no cost	 \$228,792
(28,599 tickets X assumed fee of \$8)	

Prepared by: Vern Jones Phone 465-5684
Division: Division of General Services Date/Time 02/04/02
Approved by: Jim Duncan, Commissioner Date 2/7/2002
Agency: Department of Administration