

# Status of Women

**JUNEAU** — Women of the State House of Representatives have called for a comprehensive investigation of the status of women in Alaska, in a bill introduced here this week.

Anchorage Rep. Lisa Rudd sponsored the legislation. Co-sponsors were Anchorage Reps. Helen Fischer, Helen Bierne, Ramona Kelley, Susan Sullivan, Thelma Buchholdt and Kathryn Ostrosky, as well as Brenda Itta of Fairbanks. They were joined in the effort by House Speaker Mike Bradner of Fairbanks.

"While many other states have addressed the problems of women," said Rep. Rudd, "there has never been a comprehensive review of the status of women in Alaska. Alaska's women have many concerns and problems and it is high time we paid attention to them. I hope we will have hearings on this bill throughout the state so that the many interested women can be heard."

The bill calls for an investigation to begin this year under the direction of the State Commission of Human Rights, exploring women's status in the fields of employment, education and health. The special problems of minority women will also be reviewed.

The report, to be presented to the legislature by July, 1977, will contain recommendations "to remedy inequities to women in Alaska," as well as recommendations for action by the State Commission of Human Rights in the areas reported on.

In addition, educational materials will be developed for distribution to the general public by that time.

The investigation will be conducted by contract to "persons or groups who have experience and education in the areas to be reported on, and preference shall be given to Alaskan residents who are knowledgeable on the status of women in Alaska," the bill states.

The bill, House Bill No. 795, has been referred to the Judiciary Committee for hearings and consideration.