

Iditarod funding approved

From Our Juneau Bureau

House Bill 220 advanced out of committee and on to third reading Monday in the Alaska State House to appropriate \$15,000 to the Iditarod Trail Committee for the 1977 races from Anchorage to Nome. Prime sponsor Billy Akers (R-Chaloonawik) said that "If the state can provide \$25,000 for the Fur Rondy and \$10,000 to the State Fair, this (Iditarod) being the official State race and official state sport, we should certainly be able to contribute to it. It has a lot to do with tourism and the air charter business and people throughout the state simply enjoy the race."

Akers' original bill would have appropriated \$10,000 but was upped to \$15,000 in committee. Akers said with the lack of snow this year the funds could well be used to make the going a little easier.

The Iditarod Dog Race originates in Anchorage and ends in Nome, covering 1,049 miles of trail used in the early 1900's by gold seekers.

The bill passed first House reading on a 30-0 vote Monday in favor of passage.