

Judicial sentencing to be investigated

A proposed \$90,000 investigation into sentencing practices of the Alaska judicial system will likely be approved by the House of Representatives this week. The measure is sponsored by Majority Leader, Nels Anderson (D-Dillingham).

Committee testimony last week was unanimously in favor of the appropriation. Backers include representatives of the Tlingit-Haida Central Council, the Alaska Native Brotherhood, and the Alaska Judicial Council, which would conduct the study.

A report released last fall by the council hinted at a pattern in which Natives and Blacks receive harsher sentences in com-

parable circumstances. If the study is approved, the council will look exclusively at sentencing practices in Alaska courts to determine if minorities are, indeed, treated differently.

A measure introduced last week by Gov. Jay Hammond proposes establishment of six resource regions, each with an advisory fish and game council. There would be at least five local fish and game committees within each region. Final management decisions would still be made by the statewide board of Fisheries and Game.

In a letter to representatives, Hammond says the measure is "nearly identical" to a draft

produced recently by the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Another bill under consideration, sponsored by House Speaker Terry Gardiner (D-Ketchikan), proposes that seven regional fish and game boards, with full rule making authority, be set up. The administration opposes the measure, wary of potential inconsistencies in state management of fish and game.

A related measure was introduced by Rep. Vern Hurlbert (D-Sleetmute) last week. It would place regulation of guides under regional boards. It also requires a guide for the taking of moose, caribou, black

bear, goat and deer.

Hurlbert's pet project went into the legislative hopper last week, as well. The measure, carrying 25 co-sponsors, is aimed at reducing high unemployment in depressed areas. It mandates that at least 25 per cent of jobs created by a project in which the state is involved in any way be given to local residents if unemployment in the community is at least 50 per cent.

"The reason I'm into this is because when I worked on the pipeline I've seen gross injustices to these people in the villages because of their background," says Hurlbert. He says the measure is a bush caucus

priority and should be passed through the House this session.

Hurlbert offered several other measures last week. One requests study of hydroelectric potential in rural Alaska. Another seeks \$20,000 for construction of a boardwalk at Hooper Bay, while a third bill appropriates \$1.3 million for road construction and improvement at Alakanuk, Emmonak, and Hooper Bay.

Two bills were submitted last week in the House by Rep. Phil Guy (D-Kwethluk). One seeks a \$110,000 grant to Nunam Kitlutsisti to study resources in western Alaska and a companion measure authorizes the review.

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Rep. Fred Zharoff (D-Kodiak) introduced a pair of bills, which include a \$2 million request for engineering design costs for the Terror Lake hydroelectric project and a \$900,000 appropriation for a study of the effects of landslides and tidal waves on Kodiak Island.

Rep. Al Osterback (D-Sand Point) requested last week that an Alaska State Office be established in Copenhagen, Denmark. Another Osterback-sponsored bill, requesting ferry service to the Aleutian Islands, was passed favorably out of the House State Affairs Committee last week. It must still be approved by the full House.

State Affairs also okayed a bill requiring outfits that pay persons to fly to Alaska to work, to also guarantee return airfare. This measure is aimed at helping cannery workers who often function in undesirable conditions, but have no way to leave the usually remote community.

A bill offered by the House Finance Committee proposes to hike the maximum family income from \$3,600 to \$5,600 for those seeking 25 cent subsistence licenses.

A \$25,000 grant to the Cook Inlet Native Association Family Center in Wasilla was requested last week by Rep. Pat Carney (D-Wasilla).