



Senate Majority News

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Broadcast Actualities: Available on Website
Web Site: <http://www.akrepublicans.org>

For Immediate Release: April 29, 2003

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Months of negotiations Yields Reform Legislation **Bill To Provide Fairer, More Efficient and Timely Hearings**

(Juneau) – Early in the session Senate President Gene Therriault (R-North Pole) and Commissioner of Administration Mike Miller pledged to work together to develop legislation that create a more independent and efficient system of state hearing officers.

Today after extensive efforts between the Administrative Regulation and Review Committee Chaired by Sen. Therriault and the Administration, legislation establishing a Central Hearing Office and a new set of rules for all state hearing officers is being introduced in the Senate.

“This bill is the product of many hundreds of hours of work, over the course of many years beginning with a concept introduced by Senator Ogan while he was a Representative serving in the House,” said Therriault. “I am particularly pleased with the positive attitude our Committee members and members of the administration demonstrated in this effort.”

Therriault said that this legislation will insure that state hearing officers will work more independently from state agencies.

“When people appeal administrative actions they need to know that the hearing officer assigned to their case is not a puppet of the agency being challenged and that they will not be caught up in a drawn out process of administrative hearings”, said Therriault. “Fairness, timeliness, and efficiency are the focus of this legislation.

Therriault had the “fair hearing bill” introduced through the Rules Committee, rather than as a piece of personal legislation, because it took so many people to actually turn the concept into a piece of legislation.

“This work represents the efforts of many policy makers in an effort to improve our government,” said Therriault. “Therefore I felt it should not reflect just my name as sponsor.”

[The bill](#) has been referred to State Affairs, Judiciary, and Finance.

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