SENATE BILL NO. 131 am H

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Amended:  3/19/96
Introduced:  3/15/95

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act relating to investments by fiduciaries."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

* Section 1. AS 06.35.010 is repealed and reenacted to read:

Sec. 06.35.010. COMMON TRUST FUNDS. (a) A bank or trust company that is qualified to act as a fiduciary in this state, or in another state if affiliated with a bank or trust company that is qualified to act as a fiduciary in this state, may establish common trust funds for the purpose of furnishing investments to

1. itself as fiduciary;
2. itself and others as cofiduciaries; or
3. its affiliated bank or trust company as fiduciary.

(b) A bank or trust company may invest, as fiduciary or cofiduciary, in the common trust funds it establishes under (a) of this section, the funds that the bank or trust company lawfully holds for investment, if the investment is not prohibited by the instrument, court judgment, court decree, or court order creating the fiduciary relationship, and if, in the case of cofiduciaries, the bank or trust company procures
the consent of its cofiduciary or cofiduciaries to the investment.

(c) Notwithstanding (a) and (b) of this section, a bank or trust company that is qualified to act as a fiduciary in the state where the bank or trust company is organized or otherwise formed and that is not a member of the Federal Reserve System shall in the establishment of or investment in a common trust fund under (a) - (b) of this section comply with the law regulating financial institutions in the state where the bank or trust company is organized or otherwise formed.

(d) The Department of Commerce and Economic Development may adopt regulations under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) to implement this section.

(e) In this section,

(1) "affiliated" means two or more banks or trust companies in which

   (A) 25 percent or more of the voting shares, excluding shares owned by the United States or by a corporation or other entity wholly owned by the United States, is directly or indirectly owned or controlled by a holding company; or

   (B) the election of a majority of the directors is controlled in any manner by a holding company;

(2) "bank" means an organization that is authorized by the United States Comptroller of the Currency, or by the director of banking or the equivalent position in the state of organization, to accept deposits and to make commercial loans, and whose deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;

(3) "trust company" means a financial institution, corporation, or other legal entity, authorized to exercise general trust powers, but does not include a natural person.

* Sec. 2. AS 13.46.110(b) is amended to read:

   (b) In dealing with custodial property, a custodian shall observe the standard of care that would be observed by a prudent person dealing with property of another and is not limited by any other statute, except AS 13.90.010, restricting investments by fiduciaries. If a custodian has a special skill or expertise or is named custodian on the basis of representations of a special skill or expertise, the custodian shall use that skill or expertise. However, a custodian, in the custodian’s discretion and without
liability to the minor or the minor’s estate, may retain custodial property received from
a transferor.

* Sec. 3. AS 13.60.060(b) is amended to read:

(b) If the beneficiary is not incapacitated, a custodial trustee shall follow the
directions of the beneficiary in the management, control, investment, or retention of
the custodial trust property. In the absence of effective contrary direction by the
beneficiary while not incapacitated, the custodial trustee shall observe the standard of
care that would be observed by a prudent person dealing with property of another and
is not limited by another law, except AS 13.90.010, restricting investments by
fiduciaries. However, a custodial trustee, in the custodial trustee’s discretion, may
retain custodial trust property received from the transferor. If a custodial trustee has
a special skill or expertise or is named custodial trustee on the basis of representation
of a special skill or expertise, the custodial trustee shall use that skill or expertise.

* Sec. 4. AS 13 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

CHAPTER 90. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

Sec. 13.90.010. INVESTMENTS BY FIDUCIARIES. (a) Notwithstanding
other provisions of law, except for AS 13.36.300 and the standards of judgment and
care established by law, and subject to any express provision or limitation contained
in a particular instrument creating the fiduciary relationship, fiduciaries are authorized
to acquire and hold securities of an open-end or closed-end management type
investment company or investment trust if the company or trust is registered under 15
U.S.C. 80a-1 - 80a-64 (Investment Company Act of 1940), as that act exists now or
is amended in the future.

(b) Under (a) of this section, whenever an instrument creating a fiduciary
relationship directs, requires, authorizes, or permits investment in obligations of the
United States government, the fiduciary may invest in and hold the obligations either
directly or in the form of, or as another interest in, an investment company if the
portfolio of the company is limited to obligations of the United States government and
to repurchase agreements fully collateralized by the obligations, and, if a repurchase
agreement is involved, the investment company takes delivery of the collateral either
directly or through an authorized custodian.
(c) Under (a) of this section, if a bank or trust company is the fiduciary, the bank or trust company may invest or reinvest in the securities of an investment company even if the fiduciary or an affiliated bank or trust company provides services to the investment company and the fiduciary or affiliate receives reasonable compensation for the services. Upon request of the person, the fiduciary shall furnish a copy of the prospectus relating to the securities acquired under this subsection to a person to whom a regular periodic accounting is ordinarily rendered under an instrument creating a fiduciary relationship.

(d) In this section,

(1) "affiliated" means two or more banks or trust companies in which

(A) 25 percent or more of the voting shares, excluding shares owned by the United States or by a corporation or another entity wholly owned by the United States, is directly or indirectly owned or controlled by a holding company; or

(B) the election of a majority of the directors is controlled in any manner by a holding company;

(2) "bank" means an organization that is authorized by the United States Comptroller of the Currency, or by the director of banking or the equivalent position in the state of its organization, to accept deposits and to make commercial loans, and whose deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;

(3) "fiduciary" includes guardians and conservators under AS 13.26, persons performing the trustee activities described under AS 06.05.180 whether or not the persons are covered by AS 06.05.180, and other persons acting in a fiduciary capacity;

(4) "investment company" means an open-end or closed-end management type investment company or investment trust registered under 15 U.S.C. 80a-1 - 80a-64 (Investment Company Act of 1940), as that act exists now or as amended in the future;

(5) "services" includes acting as an investment advisor, custodian, transfer agent, registrar, sponsor, distributor, or manager;

(6) "trust company" means a financial institution, corporation, or other
legal entity, authorized to exercise general trust powers, but does not include a natural person.