

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

House Community & Regional Affairs Committee

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Sponsor Statement

HCR 21, Economic Development Planning Commission

House Concurrent Resolution 21 creates the Economic Development Planning Commission whose purpose would be to develop and recommend to the Governor and the Legislature visions and strategies that will encourage economic development in Alaska.

The Commission would consist of an 11 member board: one state Representative and one state Senator appointed by the presiding officers, two public members appointed by the co-chairs of House Finance, two public members appointed by the co-chairs of Senate Finance, one public member appointed by the House Minority Leader and one by the Senate Minority Leader, the Commissioner of DCCED, the Commissioner of ADOL&WD, and the President of the Alaska Partnership for Economic Development.

There are numerous economic development strategy projects underway in Alaska, including the Governor's LEGACY initiative, the Alaska Forward strategic economic development planning initiative, and many regional and local level efforts. In addition, a review of state economic development best practices suggests that private sector input into economic development efforts in state government are critical for aligning state resources behind meaningful economic activities.

The Commission would integrate private sector advice and input into legislative oversight and action supporting economic development.

The Commission will monitor the planning processes currently underway, as well as state government's efforts, and make recommendations to the legislature on those economic development initiatives that may require statutory action by a future Legislature to come to fruition.

The Commission would be tasked with providing draft legislation and recommendations in advance of the 2011 legislative session. In addition, the commission may be tasked with legislation to reconfigure the state's economic development agencies and investments based on their assessment and that of other planning initiatives.