

SENATE BILL NO. 59

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Introduced: 2/19/13

Referred: Senate Special Committee on Trans Alaska Pipeline System Throughput, Resources, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to approval for oil and gas or gas only exploration and development in**
2 **a geographical area; and providing for an effective date."**

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

4 * **Section 1.** AS 38.05.035 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5 (o) The director may approve exploration or development for all or part of an
6 area previously approved for oil and gas or gas only leasing under (e) of this section,
7 without regard to individual lease boundaries. An approval under this subsection
8 applies to oil and gas or gas only leases leased before or during a period for up to 10
9 years, as specified by the director in the approval. When authorizing exploration or
10 development under this subsection, the department will provide public notice and the
11 opportunity to comment using the methods described in AS 38.05.945(b) and (c). The
12 approval authorizes a lessee to begin exploration or development on the lease during
13 the specified period, subject to the lessee receiving other authorizations required from
14 the department or other state or federal agencies. Once a lessee begins exploration or

1 development on a lease, the approval for the exploration under this subsection or the
2 approval of the development under this subsection remains valid for the term of the
3 lease. This subsection does not relieve lessees of any statutory, regulatory, or lease
4 obligations, including any obligations to submit for approval plans of operation, of
5 exploration, or of development. In this subsection, "area" means those lands described
6 as areawide lease sales by the department in its five-year program of proposed oil and
7 gas or gas only lease sales prepared under AS 38.05.180(b).

8 * **Sec. 2.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).