

Committees:

House Finance Committee

•

Legislative Budget &
Audit

•

Finance Subcommittee
Chair of:
Alaska Court System
Department of Law
University of Alaska

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



*Serving Midtown,
University, and
East Anchorage
neighborhoods*

REPRESENTATIVE ANDY JOSEPHSON

Explanation of Changes:

House CS for House Resolution 12 between version M and version S.

Page 1, Line 1: Change name of new committee to House Special Committee on Climate Policy in order to emphasize desire that committee will focus on forward-looking actions which the legislature and others can take.

Page 1, Lines 8-16, Page 2, Lines 1-5: Add new whereas statements with information relating to record heat and fires during the summer of 2019, and drought.

New Statements:

WHEREAS 2019 was the hottest year on record in Anchorage, with 32 new record daily highs, and five of the six hottest years in Anchorage have occurred since 2014; and

WHEREAS July 2019 was the hottest Alaskan month in recorded history, with Utqiagvik, Kotzebue, and McGrath all recording record monthly highs; and

WHEREAS the severity and extent of drought conditions statewide have worsened with increasing mean temperature; and

WHEREAS the increasingly active wildfire season in the state is associated with longer snow-free seasons, changes in vegetation, drought, and loss of sea ice and permafrost; and

WHEREAS fires burned over 2.5 million acres statewide in 2019, necessitating substantial unplanned spending by the State; and

Page 2, line 18: Replace 'melting' with thawing.

Permafrost is defined as ground (including rock or soil) which continually remains below freezing for two or more years. While water ice may be present, permafrost is not solely comprised of water; therefore, thawing is a more appropriate word.

January-April: State Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801 • (907) 465-4939 • (800) 465-4939

May-December: 1500 W Benson Blvd, Room 403, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 • (907) 269-0265

Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov

Page 2, lines 21-31: Add new Whereas statements with information relating to the Trans Alaska Pipeline System, maintenance costs to Alaskan infrastructure, and village relocation.

New statements:

WHEREAS three-fourths of the Trans Alaska Pipeline extends over land underlain with permafrost, and the pipeline is therefore affected by rapid permafrost melting rates; and

WHEREAS a changing climate is estimated to add between \$3,600,000,000 and \$6,100,000,000 to the costs of maintaining the state's public infrastructure before 2030; and

WHEREAS the United States Government Accountability Office has identified 31 villages in the state as being imminently threatened by flooding and erosion, and at least 12 of those communities have decided to relocate in part or entirely; and

WHEREAS the costs of the relocation of the villages of Shishmaref and Kivalina, necessary because of coastal erosion, winter storms, and rising sea levels linked to climate change, could exceed \$170,000,000 for Shishmaref and \$400,000,000 for Kivalina; and

Page 3, lines 2-7: Rephrase existing Whereas statements for clarification.

Rephrased statements:

WHEREAS the state's glaciers are receding rapidly, cumulatively losing 75,000,000,000 tons of ice annually and contributing appreciably to global sea level rise; and

WHEREAS increased glacial run off causes changes in the temperature, salinity, and sediment levels of rivers and streams, and the effects of these changes on anadromous fish populations, including salmon, on which residents of the state rely for commercial and subsistence harvests, are unknown; and

WHEREAS warming ocean temperatures cause increased ocean acidification, potentially impacting mollusk and shellfish populations, and the related fisheries; and