

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 9(FIN)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES CHENAULT, Millett, Thompson, Hawker, Pruitt

**A BILL****FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation, a subsidiary created  
2 by the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation; establishing and relating to the in-state  
3 natural gas pipeline fund; making certain information provided to or by the Alaska  
4 Gasline Development Corporation exempt from inspection as a public record; relating  
5 to the Joint In-State Gasline Development Team; relating to the judicial review of a  
6 right-of-way lease or an action or decision related to the development or construction of  
7 an oil or gas pipeline on state land; relating to the lease of a right-of-way by the Alaska  
8 Gasline Development Corporation or a successor in interest for a gas pipeline  
9 transportation corridor; relating to the cost of natural resources, permits, and leases  
10 provided to the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation; relating to the review of  
11 natural gas transportation contracts by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska; relating  
12 to the regulation by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska of an in-state gas pipeline

1 project developed by the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation; relating to the  
2 Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority; relating to the procurement of certain  
3 services by the Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority; exempting property of a  
4 project developed by the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation from property taxes  
5 before the commencement of commercial operations; and providing for an effective  
6 date."

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

8 \* **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section  
9 to read:

10 **LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.** It is the intent of the legislature that

11 (1) an executed pipeline operating agreement between the Alaska Gasline  
12 Development Corporation and the operator of the pipeline developed by the Alaska Gasline  
13 Development Corporation be disclosed to the public to the extent the disclosure would not  
14 divulge trade secrets or other proprietary business information of the Alaska Gasline  
15 Development Corporation or the operator;

16 (2) the purpose of the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation is to  
17 construct, own, operate, manage, or participate in natural gas pipelines and associated  
18 facilities and operations for the purpose of making natural gas available to Fairbanks, the  
19 Southcentral region of the state, and other communities in the state at the lowest rate possible  
20 for a natural gas pipeline that operates in a manner consistent with safe and prudent standards;

21 (3) the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation shall endeavor to develop  
22 natural gas pipelines to deliver natural gas to public utility and industrial customers in areas of  
23 the state to which the natural gas may be delivered at commercially reasonable rates;

24 (4) the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation shall endeavor to develop  
25 natural gas pipelines to provide shippers access to natural gas produced in the state for  
26 transport at commercially reasonable rates;

27 (5) passage of this Act constitutes a finding of public convenience and  
28 necessity for an in-state natural gas pipeline developed by the Alaska Gasline Development  
29 Corporation;

(6) the development of a natural gas pipeline by the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation is in the best interest of the state; and

(7) it is the policy of the state to make the state's share of royalty natural gas available for shipment in an in-state natural gas pipeline developed by the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation.

\* **Sec. 2.** AS 18.56 is amended by adding a new section to read:

**Sec. 18.56.087. Alaska Gasline Development Corporation.** (a) The Alaska Gasline Development Corporation, a subsidiary created under AS 18.56.086, shall have all powers granted to it by the corporation. The Alaska Gasline Development Corporation shall, to the fullest extent possible, advance an in-state natural gas pipeline as described in the July 1, 2011, project plan prepared under AS 38.34.040 by the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation and the Joint In-State Gasline Development Team, with modifications determined by the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation to be necessary to construct and operate an in-state natural gas pipeline in a safe and economic manner. In addition to the powers granted to it by the corporation, the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation may

(1) determine the form of ownership and the operating structure of an in-state natural gas pipeline developed by the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation and may enter into agreements with other persons for joint ownership or operation or both of the in-state natural gas pipeline;

(2) exercise the power of eminent domain or file a declaration of taking under AS 09.55.240 - 09.55.460 to acquire land or an interest in land that is necessary for an in-state natural gas pipeline; the exercise of powers by the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation under this paragraph may not exceed the permissible exercise of the powers by the state;

(3) acquire, by purchase, lease, or gift, land, structures, real or personal property, an interest in property, a right-of-way, a franchise, an easement, other interest in land, or an interest in or right to capacity in any pipeline system determined to be necessary or convenient for the development, financing, construction, or operation of an in-state natural gas pipeline project or part of an in-state natural gas pipeline project; and

(4) transfer or otherwise dispose of all or part of an in-state natural gas pipeline project developed by the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation or transfer or otherwise dispose of an interest in an asset of the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation.

(b) Upon commencement of construction of an in-state natural gas pipeline, the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation shall analyze additional natural gas pipelines connecting to industrial, residential, or utility customers in other regions of the state. If the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation finds that a natural gas pipeline analyzed under this subsection is in the best interest of the state and can meet the needs of industrial, residential, or utility customers at commercially reasonable rates, the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation shall finance, construct, or operate the natural gas pipeline as necessary, subject to appropriation. When developing or constructing an additional natural gas pipeline, the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation shall, to the maximum extent feasible, use existing land, structures, real or personal property, rights-of-way, easements, or other interests in land acquired by the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation or the Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority.

(c) The Alaska Gasline Development Corporation may issue bonds and notes and otherwise incur indebtedness in order to carry out and accomplish its purposes. The provisions of AS 18.56.110(a) - (f) and 18.56.115 - 18.56.190 apply to the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation in the exercise of its powers under this subsection, except that, in AS 18.56.110 - 18.56.190, as applicable under this subsection, the term "corporation" shall mean the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation. The Alaska Gasline Development Corporation may issue bonds and notes and otherwise incur indebtedness under this subsection without limit as to principal amount. The bonds, notes, and other indebtedness of the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation do not create an obligation or liability of the corporation except to the extent that the corporation agrees in writing to accept the obligation or liability.

(d) No debt, obligation, or liability of the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation shall become a debt, obligation, or liability of the state or any part or subdivision of the state or of the corporation or a subsidiary corporation of the

1 corporation other than the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation, except as  
2 provided in this subsection. This subsection applies to all debt, obligations, and  
3 liabilities of the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation regardless of how the debt,  
4 obligations, or liabilities are created, including by contract, tort, or bond or note  
5 issuance. Except as provided in this subsection, a person may not bring suit against the  
6 state or any part or subdivision of the state or against the corporation or a subsidiary  
7 corporation of the corporation other than the Alaska Gasline Development  
8 Corporation in the courts of the state to enforce or seek a remedy with respect to a  
9 debt, obligation, or liability of the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation. The  
10 corporation may waive, in whole or in part, the application of the provisions of this  
11 subsection to the corporation with respect to a debt, obligation, or liability of the  
12 Alaska Gasline Development Corporation. To be effective, a waiver by the  
13 corporation must be in writing and shall only have effect to the extent provided in the  
14 writing.

15 (e) In the exercise of its powers under (c) and (d) of this section, the Alaska  
16 Gasline Development Corporation may not pledge the faith and credit of the state or a  
17 political subdivision of the state other than the Alaska Gasline Development  
18 Corporation to the repayment of the principal of or interest on any bonds issued by the  
19 Alaska Gasline Development Corporation.

20 (f) The in-state natural gas pipeline fund is established in the Alaska Gasline  
21 Development Corporation and consists of money appropriated to it. Unless otherwise  
22 provided by law, money appropriated to the fund lapses into the general fund on the  
23 day this subsection is repealed. The Alaska Gasline Development Corporation shall  
24 manage and invest the fund to yield competitive market rates. The Alaska Gasline  
25 Development Corporation shall invest money in the fund in the same manner and on  
26 the same conditions as permitted for investment by the commissioner of revenue of  
27 funds belonging to the state or held in the treasury under AS 37.10.070 and as  
28 provided for fiduciaries of state funds under AS 37.10.071. Interest and other income  
29 received on money in the fund shall be separately accounted for and may be  
30 appropriated to the fund. The Alaska Gasline Development Corporation may use  
31 money appropriated to the fund for the planning, designing, financing, development,

1 construction, and operation of an in-state natural gas pipeline.

2 (g) If commitments to acquire firm transportation capacity are received in an  
3 open season conducted by the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation, the Alaska  
4 Gasline Development Corporation shall, within 10 days after executing the  
5 commitments, report the results of the open season to the president of the senate and  
6 the speaker of the house of representatives and inform the public of the results of the  
7 open season through publication on the Internet website of the Alaska Gasline  
8 Development Corporation and in a press release or other announcement to the media.  
9 The results made public must include the name of each prospective shipper, the  
10 amount of capacity allocated, and the period of the commitment.

11 (h) In this section, "in-state natural gas pipeline" and "natural gas pipeline"  
12 have the meanings given in AS 38.34.099.

13 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 36.30.850(b) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

14 (49) contracts by the Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority  
15 under AS 41.41.070(d).

16 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 38.34.050(a) is amended to read:

17 (a) The Alaska Gasline Development Corporation [JOINT IN-STATE  
18 GASLINE DEVELOPMENT TEAM] may have access to information of all state  
19 agencies that is directly related to the planning, design, construction, or operation of  
20 the in-state natural gas pipeline. If a state agency finds that the information to be  
21 transferred under this subsection is confidential, the state agency may require the  
22 Alaska Gasline Development Corporation to enter into a confidentiality  
23 agreement under (e) of this section before the transfer of that information, or, if  
24 the state agency determines that certain information may not be disclosed  
25 without impairing the rights of a third party to maintain the confidentiality of the  
26 information, the state agency may require the Alaska Gasline Development  
27 Corporation to obtain the consent of the third party before the state agency  
28 transfers that information.

29 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 38.34.050(b) is amended to read:

30 (b) All state agencies or entities shall cooperate with and, except for requests  
31 from the Alaska Gasline Inducement Act coordinator (AS 43.90.250), give priority to

1        requests for information from the **Alaska Gasline Development Corporation**  
2        [JOINT IN-STATE GASLINE DEVELOPMENT TEAM]. The **Alaska Gasline**  
3        **Development Corporation** [DEVELOPMENT TEAM] shall avoid duplicating  
4        studies, plans, and designs that have already been produced or otherwise obtained by  
5        other state entities.

6        \* **Sec. 6.** AS 38.34.050(c) is amended to read:

7                (c) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, the Department of Natural  
8        Resources shall grant the **Alaska Gasline Development Corporation** [ALASKA  
9        HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION] a right-of-way lease under AS 38.35 for the  
10        gas pipeline transportation corridor **at no appraisal or rental cost** if

11                (1) [THE CORPORATION SUBMITS] a complete right-of-way lease  
12        application under AS 38.35.050 **is submitted**;

13                (2) the lease application is made the subject of notice and other  
14        reasonable and appropriate publication requirements under AS 38.35.070; and

15                (3) the corporation **that submits the application for the right-of-way**  
16        **lease** agrees to be bound by the right-of-way lease covenants set out in AS 38.35.120,  
17        **except for the covenants in AS 38.35.120(a)(1), (2), (5), and (7); notwithstanding**  
18        **AS 38.35.120(b), a right-of-way lease subject to this paragraph is valid and of**  
19        **legal effect.**

20        \* **Sec. 7.** AS 38.34.050 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

21                (e) The Alaska Gasline Development Corporation may enter into  
22        confidentiality agreements necessary to acquire or provide information to carry out its  
23        functions. Information acquired or provided by the Alaska Gasline Development  
24        Corporation under a confidentiality agreement is not subject to disclosure under  
25        AS 40.25.110. The Alaska Gasline Development Corporation may enter into  
26        confidentiality agreements with a public agency, as defined in AS 40.25.220, to allow  
27        release of confidential information. The portions of the records and files of a public  
28        agency bound by a confidentiality agreement that reflect, incorporate, or analyze  
29        information subject to a confidentiality agreement under this subsection are not public  
30        records. Confidentiality agreements entered into under this subsection are valid and  
31        binding against all parties in accordance with the terms of the confidentiality

1 agreement.

2 (f) Information relating to field studies conducted and other technical  
3 information developed or obtained by the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation  
4 that relates to the development, financing, construction, or operation of an in-state  
5 natural gas pipeline project by the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation is  
6 confidential and not subject to disclosure under AS 40.25.110. The Alaska Gasline  
7 Development Corporation may waive the confidentiality of the information described  
8 in this subsection, except for information acquired from another person that is subject  
9 to a confidentiality agreement, if the waiver is in the best interest of the state and will  
10 facilitate the development, financing, or construction of an in-state natural gas  
11 pipeline.

12 (g) Upon request by the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation, a  
13 municipality or a state entity shall provide water, sand and gravel, other  
14 nonhydrocarbon natural resources, and a permit or a lease to the Alaska Gasline  
15 Development Corporation at the usual and customary rates, except as provided in (c)  
16 of this section. In this subsection, "state entity" means a state department, authority, or  
17 other administrative unit of the executive branch of state government, a public  
18 university, or a state public corporation.

19 (h) That part of the cost of providing, under (g) of this section, water, sand and  
20 gravel, or other nonhydrocarbon natural resources, or of entering into a lease or  
21 issuing a permit, that is borne by the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation for an  
22 in-state natural gas pipeline project that is owned in whole or in part by the Alaska  
23 Gasline Development Corporation may not be included in the rate base in a  
24 proceeding under AS 42 or before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

25 (i) After approval by the commissioner of natural resources, a lease received  
26 by the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation under (c) of this section may be  
27 transferred to a successor in interest under the same terms and conditions applicable to  
28 the right-of-way lease granted to the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation.

29 \* **Sec. 8.** AS 38.34.099 is repealed and reenacted to read:

30 **Sec. 38.34.099. Definitions.** In this chapter,

31 (1) "Alaska Gasline Development Corporation" means the corporation

created under AS 18.56.086 that is authorized to exercise the powers and take the actions described in AS 18.56.087;

(2) "in-state natural gas pipeline" means a natural gas pipeline for transporting natural gas in the state;

(3) "natural gas pipeline" means all the facilities of a total system of pipe for transportation of natural gas for treatment or conditioning, delivery, storage, or further transportation, and including all pipe, pump and compressor stations, station equipment, and all other facilities used or necessary for an integral line of pipe to carry out the transportation of the gas.

\* **Sec. 9.** AS 38.35.100(d) is amended to read:

(d) The commissioner shall include in a conditional lease each requirement and condition of the covenants established under AS 38.35.120, except that, for a lease entered into under AS 38.34.050(c), the covenants in AS 38.35.120(a)(1), (2), (5), and (7) may not be included. The commissioner may also require that the lessee agree to additional conditions that the commissioner finds to be in the public interest. In place of the covenant established under AS 38.35.120(a)(9), the commissioner shall require the lessee to agree that it will not transfer, assign, pledge, or dispose of in any manner, directly or indirectly, its interest in a conditional right-of-way lease or a pipeline subject to the conditional lease, unless the commissioner, after considering the public interest and issuing written findings to substantiate a decision to allow the transfer, authorizes the transfer. The commissioner shall also require the lessee to agree not to allow the transfer of control of the lessee without the approval of the commissioner; as used in this subsection, "transfer of control of the lessee" means the transfer of 30 percent or more, in the aggregate, of ownership interest in the lessee in one or more transactions to one or more persons by one or more persons.

\* **Sec. 10.** AS 38.35.120(a) is amended to read:

(a) **Except as provided in AS 38.34.050(c), a** [A] noncompetitive lease of state land for a right-of-way for an oil or natural gas pipeline valued at \$1,000,000 or more may be granted only upon the condition that the lessee expressly covenants in the lease, in consideration of the rights acquired by it under the lease, that

(1) it assumes the status of and will perform all of its functions

undertaken under the lease as a common carrier and will accept, convey, and transport without discrimination crude oil or natural gas, depending on the kind of pipeline involved, delivered to it for transportation from fields in the vicinity of the pipeline subject to the lease throughout its route both on state land obtained under the lease and on the other land; it will accept, convey, and transport crude oil or natural gas without unjust or unreasonable discrimination in favor of one producer or person, including itself, as against another but will take the crude oil or natural gas, depending on the kind of pipeline involved, delivered or offered, without unreasonable discrimination, that the Regulatory Commission of Alaska shall, after a full hearing with due notice to the interested parties and a proper finding of facts, determine to be reasonable in the performance of its duties as a common carrier; however, a lessee that owns or operates a natural gas pipeline

(A) subject to regulation either under the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717 et seq.) of the United States or by the state or political subdivisions with respect to rates and charges for the sale of natural gas, is, to the extent of that regulation, exempt from the common carrier requirement in this paragraph;

(B) that is a North Slope natural gas pipeline (i) is required to operate as a common carrier only with respect to the intrastate transportation of North Slope natural gas, as that term is defined in AS 42.06.630, and (ii) is not required to operate as a common carrier as to a liquefied natural gas facility or a marine terminal facility associated with the pipeline, and is not otherwise required to perform its functions under the lease as a common carrier; for purposes of this subparagraph, "North Slope natural gas pipeline" means all the facilities of a total system of pipe, whether owned or operated under a contract, agreement, or lease, used by a carrier for transportation of North Slope natural gas, as defined by AS 42.06.630, for delivery, for storage, or for further transportation, and including all pipe, pump, or compressor stations, station equipment, tanks, valves, access roads, bridges, airfields, terminals and terminal facilities, including docks and tanker loading facilities, operations control centers for both the upstream part of the pipeline and the terminal,

1                   tanker ballast treatment facilities, fire protection system, communication  
2                   system, and all other facilities used or necessary for an integral line of pipe,  
3                   taken as a whole, to carry out transportation, including an extension or  
4                   enlargement of the line;

5                   (2) it will interchange crude oil or natural gas, depending on the kind  
6                   of pipeline involved, with each like common carrier and provide connections and  
7                   facilities for the interchange of crude oil or natural gas at every locality reached by  
8                   both pipelines when the necessity exists, subject to rates and regulations made by the  
9                   appropriate state or federal regulatory agency;

10                  (3) it will maintain and preserve books, accounts, and records and will  
11                  make those reports that the state may prescribe by regulation or law as necessary and  
12                  appropriate for purposes of administration of this chapter;

13                  (4) it will accord at all reasonable times to the state and its authorized  
14                  agents and auditors the right of access to its property and records, of inspection of its  
15                  property, and of examination and copying of records;

16                  (5) it will provide connections, as determined by the Regulatory  
17                  Commission of Alaska under AS 42.06.340, to facilities on the pipeline subject to the  
18                  lease, both on state land and other land in the state, for the purpose of delivering crude  
19                  oil or natural gas, depending on the kind of pipeline involved, to persons (including  
20                  the state and its political subdivisions) contracting for the purchase at wholesale of  
21                  crude oil or natural gas transported by the pipeline when required by the public  
22                  interest;

23                  (6) it shall, notwithstanding any other provision, provide connections  
24                  and interchange facilities at state expense at such places the state considers necessary  
25                  if the state determines to take a portion of its royalty or taxes in oil or natural gas;

26                  (7) it will construct and operate the pipeline in accordance with  
27                  applicable state laws and lawful regulations and orders of the Regulatory Commission  
28                  of Alaska;

29                  (8) it will, at its own expense, during the term of the lease,

30                   (A) maintain the leasehold and pipeline in good repair;

31                   (B) promptly repair or remedy any damage to the leasehold;

(C) promptly compensate for any damage to or destruction of property for which the lessee is liable resulting from damage to or destruction of the leasehold or pipeline;

(9) it will not transfer, assign, or dispose of in any manner, directly or indirectly, or by transfer of control of the carrier corporation, its interest in a right-of-way lease, or any rights under the lease or any pipeline subject to the lease to any person other than another owner of the pipeline (including subsidiaries, parents, and affiliates of the owners), except to the extent that the commissioner, after consideration of the protection of the public interest (including whether the proposed transferee is fit, willing, and able to perform the transportation or other acts proposed in a manner that will reasonably protect the lives, property, and general welfare of the people of Alaska), authorizes; the commissioner shall not unreasonably withhold consent to the transfer, assignment, or disposal;

(10) it will file with the commissioner a written appointment of a named permanent resident of the state to be its registered agent in the state and to receive service of notices, regulations, decisions, and orders of the commissioner; if it fails to appoint an agent for service, service may be made by posting a copy in the office of the commissioner, filing a copy in the office of the lieutenant governor, and mailing a copy to the lessee's last known address;

(11) the applicable law of this state will be used in resolving questions of interpretation of the lease;

(12) the granting of the right-of-way lease is subject to the express condition that the exercise of the rights and privileges granted under the lease will not unduly interfere with the management, administration, or disposal by the state of the land affected by the lease, and that the lessee agrees and consents to the occupancy and use by the state, its grantees, permittees, or other lessees of any part of the right-of-way not actually occupied or required by the pipeline for the full and safe utilization of the pipeline, for necessary operations incident to land management, administration, or disposal;

(13) it will be liable to the state for damages or injury incurred by the state caused by the construction, operation, or maintenance of the pipeline and it will

1 indemnify the state for the liabilities or damages;

2 (14) it will procure and furnish liability and property damage insurance  
3 from a company licensed to do business in the state or furnish other security or  
4 undertaking upon the terms and conditions the commissioner considers necessary if  
5 the commissioner finds that the net assets of the lessee are insufficient to protect the  
6 public from damage for which the lessee may be liable arising out of the construction  
7 or operation of the pipeline.

8 \* **Sec. 11.** AS 38.35.120(b) is amended to read:

9 (b) **Except as provided in AS 38.34.050(c), for** [FOR] a right-of-way lease  
10 granted under this chapter for an oil or natural gas pipeline valued at \$1,000,000 or  
11 more to be valid and of legal effect, it must contain the terms required to be inserted  
12 under the provisions of AS 38.35.110 - 38.35.140. **Except as provided in**  
13 **AS 38.34.050(c), an** [AN] oil or natural gas pipeline right-of-way lease granted under  
14 this chapter that does not contain the required terms is null and void and without legal  
15 effect and does not vest any interest in state land or any authority in the carrier granted  
16 the lease.

17 \* **Sec. 12.** AS 38.35.140 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

18 (c) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, a right-of-way lease shall be granted  
19 without appraisal or rental costs to the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation  
20 created under AS 18.56.086.

21 \* **Sec. 13.** AS 38.35.200 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

22 (c) Except as provided for an applicant under (a) of this section,  
23 notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, an action or decision of the  
24 commissioner or other state officer or agency concerning the issuance or approval of a  
25 necessary right-of-way, permit, lease, certificate, license, or other authorization for the  
26 development, construction, or initial operation of a natural gas pipeline by the Alaska  
27 Gasline Development Corporation, a subsidiary created by the Alaska Housing  
28 Finance Corporation under AS 18.56.086, that uses a right-of-way subject to this  
29 chapter may not be subject to judicial review, except that a claim alleging the  
30 invalidity of this subsection must be brought within 60 days after the effective date of  
31 this Act, and a claim alleging that an action will deny rights under the Constitution of

1 the State of Alaska must be brought within 60 days following the date of that action. A  
2 claim that is not filed within the limitations established in this subsection is barred. A  
3 complaint under this subsection must be filed in superior court, and the superior court  
4 has exclusive jurisdiction. Notwithstanding AS 22.10.020(c), except in conjunction  
5 with a final judgment on a claim filed under this subsection, the superior court may  
6 not grant injunctive relief, including a temporary restraining order, preliminary  
7 injunction, permanent injunction, or stay against the issuance of a necessary right-of-  
8 way, permit, lease, certificate, license, or other authorization for the development,  
9 construction, or initial operation of a natural gas pipeline by the Alaska Gasline  
10 Development Corporation, a subsidiary created by the Alaska Housing Finance  
11 Corporation under AS 18.56.086. In this subsection, "natural gas pipeline" has the  
12 meaning given in AS 38.34.099.

13 (d) An appeal of a permitting decision or authorization by the Department of  
14 Environmental Conservation under AS 46.03 or AS 46.14 that is made under a  
15 program approved or delegated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency  
16 is not

- 17 (1) subject to the limitation in (a) of this section;
- 18 (2) included in the actions or decisions described in (c) of this section.

19 \* **Sec. 14.** AS 40.25.120(a) is amended to read:

20 (a) Every person has a right to inspect a public record in the state, including  
21 public records in recorders' offices, except

22 (1) records of vital statistics and adoption proceedings, which shall be  
23 treated in the manner required by AS 18.50;

24 (2) records pertaining to juveniles unless disclosure is authorized by  
25 law;

26 (3) medical and related public health records;

27 (4) records required to be kept confidential by a federal law or  
28 regulation or by state law;

29 (5) to the extent the records are required to be kept confidential under  
30 20 U.S.C. 1232g and the regulations adopted under 20 U.S.C. 1232g in order to secure  
31 or retain federal assistance;

(6) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of the law enforcement records or information

(A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings;

(B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication;

(C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of a suspect, defendant, victim, or witness;

(D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source;

(E) would disclose confidential techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions;

(F) would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if the disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law; or

(G) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of an individual;

(7) names, addresses, and other information identifying a person as a participant in the Alaska Higher Education Savings Trust under AS 14.40.802 or the advance college tuition savings program under AS 14.40.803 - 14.40.817;

(8) public records containing information that would disclose or might lead to the disclosure of a component in the process used to execute or adopt an electronic signature if the disclosure would or might cause the electronic signature to cease being under the sole control of the person using it;

(9) reports submitted under AS 05.25.030 concerning certain collisions, accidents, or other casualties involving boats;

(10) records or information pertaining to a plan, program, or procedures for establishing, maintaining, or restoring security in the state, or to a detailed description or evaluation of systems, facilities, or infrastructure in the state, but only to the extent that the production of the records or information

(A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with the

1 implementation or enforcement of the security plan, program, or procedures;

2 (B) would disclose confidential guidelines for investigations or  
3 enforcement and the disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk  
4 circumvention of the law; or

5 (C) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or  
6 physical safety of an individual or to present a real and substantial risk to the  
7 public health and welfare;

8 (11) the written notification regarding a proposed regulation provided  
9 under AS 24.20.105 to the Department of Law and the affected state agency and  
10 communications between the Legislative Affairs Agency, the Department of Law, and  
11 the affected state agency under AS 24.20.105;

12 (12) records that are

13 (A) proprietary, privileged, or a trade secret in accordance with  
14 AS 43.90.150 or 43.90.220(e);

15 (B) applications that are received under AS 43.90 until notice is  
16 published under AS 43.90.160;

17 **(13) information that is covered by a confidentiality agreement**  
18 **between the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation created under**  
19 **AS 18.56.086 and the provider or recipient of the information.**

20 \* **Sec. 15.** AS 41.41.010(a) is amended to read:

21 (a) There is established the Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority, the  
22 purpose of which is to provide one or more of the following services and functions in  
23 order to acquire [BRING] natural gas produced in [FROM THE NORTH SLOPE  
24 OR OTHER REGIONS OF] the state for delivery to market, including

25 [(1)] the acquisition and conditioning of natural gas [;

26 (2) THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE PIPELINE  
27 SYSTEM;

28 (3) THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE PIPELINE  
29 SYSTEM;

30 (4) THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND OPERATION OF  
31 OTHER FACILITIES NECESSARY FOR DELIVERING THE GAS TO MARKET,

INCLUDING MARKETS IN THE STATE;] and

[(5)] the acquisition of natural gas market share sufficient to ensure the long-term feasibility of pipeline system projects.

\* **Sec. 16.** AS 41.41.010(d) is amended to read:

(d) The acquisition of natural gas from the North Slope and other regions of the state, including the Alaska outer continental shelf, and making that natural gas available to [ITS DELIVERY TO MARKETS IN THE STATE FOR USE BY] markets in the state or for export from the state [TO TIDEWATER FOR SHIPMENT TO MARKET BY THE AUTHORITY] are essential government functions of the state.

\* **Sec. 17.** AS 41.41.010 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(f) To honor delivery commitments in a contract entered into by the authority, the authority and the commissioner of natural resources may pledge, as necessary, royalty gas owned by the state and not otherwise committed by contract to other purchasers of royalty gas. The commissioner of natural resources shall determine the amount of gas that may be pledged and the price for that gas. A pledge made under this subsection shall be treated as a disposal of gas other than by sale or exchange for purposes of AS 38.05.183.

\* **Sec. 18.** AS 41.41.020 is repealed and reenacted to read:

**Sec. 41.41.020. Authority governing body.** The authority shall be governed by the board of directors of the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation.

\* **Sec. 19.** AS 41.41.060 is amended to read:

**Sec. 41.41.060. Compensation of board members; per diem and travel expenses.** Members of the board described in AS 18.56.030(a)(4) are entitled to compensation and reimbursement as provided in AS 18.56.030(e) when on official business of the authority [PER DIEM AND TRAVEL EXPENSES AUTHORIZED FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS UNDER AS 39.20.180].

\* **Sec. 20.** AS 41.41.070(d) is amended to read:

(d) In addition to its employees, the authority may contract for and engage the services of [BOND COUNSEL,] consultants, experts, [AND] financial advisors, and legal counsel, including bond counsel, the authority considers necessary for the

purpose of developing information, furnishing advice, or conducting studies, investigations, hearings, or other proceedings. **The procurement of services under this subsection is exempt from AS 36.30, including AS 36.30.015(d) and (f).**

\* **Sec. 21.** AS 41.41.090(b) is amended to read:

(b) If a member of the board or an employee of the authority acquires, owns, or controls an interest, direct or indirect, in an entity [OR PROJECT] in which assets of the authority are invested, the member shall immediately disclose the interest to the board. The disclosure is a matter of public record and shall be included in the minutes of the first board meeting following the disclosure.

\* **Sec. 22.** AS 41.41.150(a) is amended to read:

(a) Information in the possession of the authority is a public record, except that information that is contained in or subject to a confidentiality agreement between the authority and the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation or that discloses the particulars of the business or affairs of a private enterprise or investor is confidential and is not a public record for purposes of AS 40.25.110 - 40.25.140. Confidential information may be disclosed only for the purposes of an official law enforcement investigation or when its production is required in a court proceeding.

\* **Sec. 23.** AS 41.41.200 is amended to read:

**Sec. 41.41.200. Powers of the authority.** In furtherance of its corporate purposes, in addition to its other powers, the authority may

- (1) sue and be sued;
- (2) adopt a seal;
- (3) adopt, amend, and repeal bylaws and regulations;
- (4) make and execute contracts and other instruments;
- (5) in its own name acquire property, lease, rent, convey, or acquire  
onal property [; A PROJECT SITE OR PART OF A PROJECT SITE  
QUIRED BY EMINENT DOMAIN];
- (6) acquire natural gas supplies;
- (7) issue bonds and otherwise incur indebtedness in accordance with  
- 41.41.410 in order to pay the cost of a project;
- (8) accept gifts, grants, or loans from and enter into contracts or other

1 transactions regarding gifts, grants, or loans with a federal agency or an agency or  
2 instrumentality of the state, a municipality, private organization, or other source;

3 (9) enter into contracts or agreements with a federal agency, agency or  
4 instrumentality of the state, municipality, or public or private individual or entity, with  
5 respect to the exercise of its powers;

6 (10) charge fees or other forms of remuneration for the use of authority  
7 properties and facilities;

8 (11) defend and indemnify a current or former member of the board or  
9 an employee or agent of the authority against the costs, expenses, judgments, and  
10 liabilities as a result of actions taken in good faith on behalf of the authority; and

11 (12) purchase insurance to protect its assets, services, and employees  
12 against liabilities that may arise from authority operations and activities.

13 \* **Sec. 24.** AS 41.41.990(2) is amended to read:

14 (2) "board" means the board of directors of the **Alaska Housing**  
15 **Finance Corporation acting as the board of the** Alaska Natural Gas Development  
16 Authority;

17 \* **Sec. 25.** AS 42.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

18 **Sec. 42.05.433. Review of certain contracts by the commission.** (a) A public  
19 utility negotiating a contract with the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation  
20 created under AS 18.56.086, or with any entity controlled by the Alaska Gasline  
21 Development Corporation, shall submit the contract to the commission before the  
22 contract takes effect.

23 (b) A public utility negotiating to purchase natural gas to be shipped on any  
24 pipeline owned by either the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation or an entity  
25 controlled by the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation shall submit the contract  
26 to the commission before the contract takes effect.

27 (c) A public utility negotiating a natural gas storage contract related to (a) or  
28 (b) of this section shall submit the contract to the commission before the contract takes  
29 effect.

30 (d) The commission shall review and may conduct an investigation and  
31 hearing to determine whether a contract submitted under (a), (b), or (c) of this section

1       is just and reasonable. The commission shall either approve the contract as presented,  
2       or, if the commission finds that the contract is unjust, unreasonable, or unduly  
3       discriminatory or preferential, the commission shall disapprove the contract. If the  
4       commission does not act within 180 days after the submission of the contract, the  
5       contract shall be considered approved and shall be implemented. A contract that is  
6       approved or considered approved under this subsection is not subject to further review  
7       by the commission.

8               (e) Before the start of construction of a natural gas pipeline by the Alaska  
9       Gasline Development Corporation or an entity controlled by the Alaska Gasline  
10      Development Corporation, the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation shall submit  
11      to the commission under seal any firm transportation precedent agreement it has  
12      negotiated with an entity that is not a public utility. Notwithstanding AS 40.25.110  
13      and AS 42.05.671(a), the commission shall keep an agreement submitted under this  
14      subsection confidential.

15               (f) The commission shall review each agreement submitted under (e) of this  
16      section and compare the firm transportation rates in the agreement to the weighted-  
17      average of the firm transportation rates contained in the firm transportation contracts  
18      submitted under (a) of this section that were approved under (d) of this section. The  
19      transportation rates in the contracts submitted under (a) of this section shall be  
20      weighted by volume for purposes of the comparison. The commission shall approve  
21      by order an agreement submitted under (e) of this section if the firm transportation  
22      rates are equal to or less than the weighted-average firm transportation rates in  
23      contracts submitted under (a) of this section and approved under (d) of this section.  
24      The commission shall disapprove by order an agreement submitted under (e) of this  
25      section if the firm transportation rates are greater than the weighted-average firm  
26      transportation rate in contracts submitted under (a) of this section and approved under  
27      (d) of this section. If the commission has not disapproved an agreement submitted  
28      under (e) of this section within 30 days after the submission of the agreement, the  
29      agreement shall be considered approved and shall take effect immediately. A firm  
30      transportation precedent agreement that is approved under this subsection is not  
31      subject to further review by the commission.

1       \* **Sec. 26.** AS 42.05.711 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

2               (s) Except for the review of a contract for the transportation of natural gas  
3               under AS 42.05.433, the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation created under  
4               AS 18.56.086, a joint venture, partnership, or other entity controlled by the Alaska  
5               Gasline Development Corporation, or a natural gas pipeline owned or financed by the  
6               Alaska Gasline Development Corporation is exempt from this chapter until all debt  
7               incurred to finance or refinance the cost of developing and constructing the natural gas  
8               pipeline is paid in full. However, the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation or a  
9               joint venture, partnership, or other entity that includes the Alaska Gasline  
10              Development Corporation may elect to be subject to regulation under this chapter to  
11              the extent and in the manner the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation elects and  
12              determines is appropriate.

13       \* **Sec. 27.** AS 42.06 is amended by adding a new section to article 7 to read:

14               **Sec. 42.06.601. Exemption.** The Alaska Gasline Development Corporation  
15               created under AS 18.56.086, an entity controlled by the Alaska Gasline Development  
16               Corporation, or a natural gas pipeline owned, operated, financed, or controlled, in  
17               whole or in part, by the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation is not subject to this  
18               chapter except to the extent and in the manner the Alaska Gasline Development  
19              Corporation elects and determines is appropriate.

20       \* **Sec. 28.** AS 43.56.020 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

21               (d) Taxable property of a natural gas pipeline project owned or financed by  
22               the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation established under AS 18.56.086, or a  
23               joint venture, partnership, or other entity that includes the Alaska Gasline  
24               Development Corporation, is exempt from state taxes levied or authorized under  
25               AS 43.56.010(a) and local taxes levied or authorized under AS 43.56.010(b) before  
26               the commencement of commercial operations of that natural gas pipeline project. In  
27               this subsection, "commencement of commercial operations" means the first flow of  
28               natural gas in the project that generates revenue to the owners of the natural gas  
29               pipeline project.

30       \* **Sec. 29.** AS 38.34.030, 38.34.040, 38.34.060; AS 41.41.030, 41.41.040, AS 41.41.050,  
31              and 41.41.080 are repealed.

1       \* **Sec. 30.** Section 1, 2002 Ballot Measure No. 3, is repealed.

2       \* **Sec. 31.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
3 read:

4           TRANSITION AND LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the legislature that a  
5 right-of-way lease subject to AS 38.34.050(c), as amended by sec. 6 of this Act,  
6 AS 38.35.100(d), as amended by sec. 9 of this Act, AS 38.35.120(a), as amended by sec. 10  
7 of this Act, and AS 38.35.120(b), as amended by sec. 11 of this Act, that is entered into  
8 between the commissioner of natural resources and the Alaska Gasline Development  
9 Corporation, a subsidiary of the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation created under  
10 AS 18.56.086, before the effective dates of secs. 6 and 9 - 11 of this Act be amended as soon  
11 as practicable after the effective dates of secs. 6 and 9 - 11 of this Act to conform to the  
12 requirements of AS 38.34.050(c), as amended by sec. 6 of this Act, AS 38.35.100(d), as  
13 amended by sec. 9 of this Act, AS 38.35.120(a), as amended by sec. 10 of this Act, and  
14 AS 38.35.120(b), as amended by sec. 11 of this Act.

15       \* **Sec. 32.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
16 read:

17           REVISOR'S INSTRUCTIONS. The revisor of statutes shall change the catch lines of  
18                   (1) AS 38.34.050 from "Cooperation and access to information" to  
19 "Cooperation; information sharing; permits, use of state resources, and leases"; and  
20                   (2) AS 38.35.200 from "Judicial review of decisions of commissioner on  
21 application" to "Judicial review."

22       \* **Sec. 33.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).