

HOUSE BILL NO. 317

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOLLAND

Introduced: 2/18/26

Referred: Transportation, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to maintenance of transportation facilities in wildland urban interface**
2 **zones."**

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

4 *** Section 1.** AS 44.42.020(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) The department shall

6 (1) plan, design, construct, and maintain all state modes of
7 transportation and transportation facilities and all docks, floats, breakwaters, buildings,
8 and similar facilities;

9 (2) study existing transportation modes and facilities in the state to
10 determine how they might be improved or whether they should continue to be
11 maintained;

12 (3) study alternative means of improving transportation in the state
13 with regard to the economic costs of each alternative and its environmental and social
14 effects;

1 (4) develop a comprehensive, long-range, intermodal transportation
2 plan for the state;

3 (5) study alternatives to existing modes of transportation in urban areas
4 and develop plans to improve urban transportation;

5 (6) cooperate and coordinate with and enter into agreements with
6 federal, state, and local government agencies and private organizations and persons in
7 exercising its powers and duties;

8 (7) manage, operate, and maintain state transportation facilities and all
9 docks, floats, breakwaters, and buildings, including all state highways, vessels,
10 railroads, pipelines, airports, and aviation facilities;

11 (8) study alternative means of transportation in the state, considering
12 the economic, social, and environmental effects of each alternative;

13 (9) coordinate and develop state and regional transportation systems,
14 considering deletions, additions, and the absence of alterations;

15 (10) develop facility program plans for transportation and state
16 buildings, docks, and breakwaters required to implement the duties set out in this
17 section, including but not limited to functional performance criteria and schedules for
18 completion;

19 (11) supervise and maintain all state automotive and mechanical
20 equipment, aircraft, and vessels, except vessels and aircraft used by the Department of
21 Fish and Game or the Department of Public Safety; for state vehicles maintained by
22 the department, the department shall, every five years, evaluate the cost, efficiency,
23 and commercial availability of alternative fuels for automotive purposes, and the
24 purpose for which the vehicles are intended to be used, and convert vehicles to use
25 alternative fuels or purchase energy efficient vehicles whenever practicable; the
26 department may participate in joint ventures with public or private partners that will
27 foster the availability of alternative fuels for all automotive fuel consumers;

28 (12) supervise aeronautics inside the state, under AS 02.10;

29 (13) implement the safety and financial responsibility requirements for
30 air carriers under AS 02.40;

31 (14) inspect weights and measures;

1 (15) at least every four years, study alternatives available to finance
2 transportation systems in order to provide an adequate level of funding to sustain and
3 improve the state's transportation system;

4 (16) allot space to and manage space in state buildings for the various
5 departments according to need and available space;

6 **(17) develop a program for prioritizing maintenance of**
7 **transportation facilities in wildland urban interface zones.**

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

10 REPORT ON PRIORITIZING MAINTENANCE OF TRANSPORTATION
11 FACILITIES IN WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE ZONES. The Department of
12 Transportation and Public Facilities shall implement a plan for prioritizing maintenance of
13 transportation facilities that support communities in wildland urban interface zones that are
14 only accessible by one route. The department shall solicit input from and consult with local
15 municipalities, community organizations, metropolitan planning organizations, regional
16 transportation planning organizations, and service areas to develop a prioritized list of state-
17 maintained roads and highways in these areas for annual wildfire season preparation, facility
18 maintenance, and treatment of fuel loads. Not later than December 20, 2026, the department
19 shall submit a written report on the plan that includes the department's prioritization
20 methodology and the prioritized list of state-maintained roads and highways to the senate
21 secretary and the chief clerk of the house of representatives and notify the legislature that the
22 report is available.