

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 317()

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

BY

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE HOLLAND

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to planning for transportation facilities affected by environmental**
2 **changes; and relating to prioritizing maintenance of transportation facilities in areas of**
3 **wildland fire risk."**

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

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

6 (a) The department shall

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

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

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

1 effects;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (14) inspect weights and measures;

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

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

7 **(17) develop long-term plans for existing and future transportation**
8 **facilities affected by environmental changes to improve resilience and preserve**
9 **functionality during natural disasters.**

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

12 REPORT ON PRIORITIZING MAINTENANCE OF TRANSPORTATION
13 FACILITIES IN AREAS OF WILDLAND FIRE RISK. (a) The Department of
14 Transportation and Public Facilities shall implement a plan for prioritizing maintenance of
15 state-maintained transportation facilities that support communities in areas of wildland fire
16 risk to ensure that egress capacity from these communities is available during a wildfire. The
17 department shall prioritize facilities that support communities with only one means of egress,
18 including a road or airport. The department shall solicit input from and consult with
19 municipalities, community organizations, metropolitan planning organizations, regional
20 transportation planning organizations, tribal entities, and service areas to develop a prioritized
21 list of state-maintained roads, highways, airports, and other facilities in these areas for annual
22 wildfire season preparation, facility maintenance, and treatment of fuel loads. Not later than
23 December 20, 2026, the department shall submit a written report on the plan that includes the
24 department's prioritization methodology and the prioritized list of state-maintained facilities to
25 the senate secretary and the chief clerk of the house of representatives and notify the
26 legislature that the report is available.

27 (b) In this section,

28 (1) "areas of wildland fire risk" means designated wildland urban interface
29 zones and areas designated in the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan for critical and
30 full management options;

31 (2) "tribal entity" means a tribe that the United States Secretary of the Interior

1 recognizes as an Indian tribe under 25 U.S.C. 5130 and 5131 (Federally Recognized Indian
2 Tribe List Act of 1994), and a subdivision, subsidiary, or business enterprise wholly owned by
3 one or more tribes.