

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

House Community & Regional Affairs Committee

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Sponsor Statement

CSHCR 21(EDT), Economic Development Planning Commission

House Concurrent Resolution 21 creates the Economic Development Planning Commission whose purpose would be to develop and recommend to the Governor and the Legislature visions and strategies that will encourage economic development in Alaska.

The Commission would consist of a ten-member board: one state Representative and one public member appointed by the co-chairs of House Finance, one Senator and one public member appointed by the co-chairs of Senate Finance, one public member appointed by the House Speaker and one by the Senate President, one public member appointed by the House Minority Leader and one by the Senate Minority Leader, the Commissioner of DCCED and the Commissioner of ADOL&WD.

There are numerous economic development strategy projects underway in Alaska, including the Governor's LEGACY initiative, the Alaska Forward strategic economic development planning initiative, and many regional and local level efforts. In addition, a review of state economic development best practices suggests that private sector input into economic development efforts in state government are critical for aligning state resources behind meaningful economic activities.

The Commission would integrate private sector advice and input into legislative oversight and action supporting economic development.

The Commission will monitor the planning processes currently underway, as well as state government's efforts, and make recommendations to the legislature on those economic development initiatives that may require statutory action by a future Legislature to come to fruition.

The Commission would be tasked with providing draft legislation and recommendations in advance of the 2011 legislative session. In addition, the commission may be tasked with legislation to reconfigure the state's economic development agencies and investments based on their assessment and that of other planning initiatives.