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Bullock  
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**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 276( )**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY**

**Offered:  
Referred:**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES THOMPSON, DICK, MILLETT, TUCK, AND MILLER**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act providing for a credit against the oil and gas production tax for costs incurred**  
2 **in drilling certain oil or natural gas exploration wells in the Nenana Basin."**

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

4 **\* Section 1.** AS 43.55.025(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) Subject to the terms and conditions of this section, a credit against the  
6 production tax levied by AS 43.55.011(e) is allowed for exploration expenditures that  
7 qualify under (b) of this section in an amount equal to one of the following:

8 (1) 30 percent of the total exploration expenditures that qualify only  
9 under (b) and (c) of this section;

10 (2) 30 percent of the total exploration expenditures that qualify only  
11 under (b) and (d) of this section;

12 (3) 40 percent of the total exploration expenditures that qualify under  
13 (b), (c), and (d) of this section;

14 (4) 40 percent of the total exploration expenditures that qualify only

under (b) and (e) of this section; or

(5) 80, 90, or 100 percent, or a lesser amount described in (l) or (n) of this section, of the total exploration expenditures described in (b)(1) and (2) of this section and not excluded by (b)(3) and (4) of this section that qualify only under (l) or (n) of this section.

\* **Sec. 2.** AS 43.55.025 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(n) The first three persons that drill an exploration well for the purpose of discovering oil or gas in the Nenana Basin are eligible for the credit under this subsection. To qualify for the credit under this subsection, the well for which the credit is claimed must be drilled to a depth greater than 8,000 feet or, if authorized by the commissioner of natural resources before the drill bit first turns to the right for the purpose of drilling the well, to a target depth of less than 8,000 feet, but not less than 5,000 feet. The person that drills the first exploration well is entitled to a credit in the amount of 100 percent of its exploration well expenditures or \$25,000,000, whichever is less; the person that drills the second exploration well is entitled to a credit in the amount of 90 percent of its exploration well expenditures or \$22,500,000, whichever is less; and the person that drills the third exploration well is entitled to a credit in the amount of 80 percent of its exploration well expenditures or \$20,000,000, whichever is less. A person or an affiliate of a person may qualify for a credit for more than one well under this subsection. The department shall make a determination of the order in which the wells are drilled based on the date and time that the drill bit first turns to the right for the purpose of drilling the well. Exploration expenditures eligible for the credit in this subsection must be incurred for work performed after December 31, 2011. If the exploration well for which a credit is received under this subsection results in sustained production of oil or gas from a reservoir discovered by the exploration well, and notwithstanding that the credit may have been transferred under (g) of this section, 50 percent of the amount of the credit received shall be repaid to the department by the person that received the credit in equal monthly installments over a 10-year period commencing 60 days after the start of sustained production of oil or gas. Whether the exploration well for which a credit is requested under this subsection is located in the Nenana Basin, reached the required depth, or resulted in

1 sustained production of oil or gas from a reservoir discovered by the exploration well  
2 shall be determined by the commissioner of natural resources and reported to the  
3 commissioner. A taxpayer that obtains a credit under this subsection may not claim a  
4 tax credit under AS 43.55.023 or another provision in this section for the same  
5 exploration expenditure. In this subsection,

6 (1) "reservoir" means an oil or gas accumulation, discovered and  
7 evaluated by testing, that is separate from any other accumulation of oil or gas;

8 (2) "sustained production" means production of oil or gas from a  
9 reservoir into a pipeline or other means of transportation to market, but does not  
10 include testing, evaluation, or pilot production.