

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senator Cathy Giessel

Senate Bill 2 Interstate Mining Compact Commission

Sectional

Passage of Senate Bill 2 would elevate Alaska from associate membership to full membership in the Interstate Mining Compact Commission, allowing the Governor to be an active, voting member.

Section 1: Amends AS 27, adding a new chapter:

- **Section 27.08.010**, which contains and enacts into law the Interstate Mining Compact and includes the following articles:
 - **Article 1 – Page 1:** Findings and Purpose –
 - Finds the importance of mining to the state;
 - Finds the effects of mining is of public and private concern, and that each state is unique, making it impracticable to apply a single standard to mining practices, yet also recognizing that justifiable requirements of law and practice relating to the effects of mining may be less effective or equitable if they are not relatively applicable to similarly situated mining operations state-to-state;
 - Finds that the states are in the best position to assure sound mining practices with regard to local conditions;
 - And declares the purpose of the Compact to advance protection and restoration of the land and resources affected by mining;
 - To assist in reducing pollution and other adverse effects of mining;
 - To encourage programs that will protect, conserve and improve the usefulness of natural resources;
 - To assist party states efforts to engage in and improve sound mining practices;
 - To assist states achieve efficient and productive practices to enhance mining economics and benefits.
 - **Article 2 – Page 3:** Definitions – defines “mining” and “state”.
 - **Article 3 – Page 3:** State Programs – requires that member states have adequate mining regulations to protect mined land, the public, adjoining land owners, and to ensure safe mining practices, including the handling of wastes, and suitable restoration and rehabilitation programs for mined lands that will protect water, air and soil.
 - **Article 4 – Page 4:** Powers – specifies the power of the Commission to study, make recommendations, gather and disseminate information on mining-related issues, and

cooperate and consult with government agencies, the public or private entities on matters within the purview of the compact.

- **Article 5 – Page 5:** The Commission – creates the Commission, specifying its structure, voting, bylaws and other features necessary for the Commission’s operation and requiring the Commission provide an annual report to its members.
 - **Article 6 – Page 7:** Allows the Commission to establish advisory, technical and regional committees;
 - **Article 7 – Page 7:** Finance – details how the Commission’s finances will be handled and requires that the annual budget contain a recommendation on how much each member state should expect to request from its legislature as an appropriation for the Commission’s operation. The budget share of each state is apportioned as follows: one-half of the budget in equal shares, and the remainder in proportion to the value of the minerals, ores, and other solid matter mined.
 - **Article 8 – Page 8:** Entry Into Force and Withdrawal – describes that states must enact the compact to participate and must repeal the act to withdraw, but only after providing one year written notice to all other member states;
 - **Article 9 – Page 8:** Effects on Other Laws – maintains that the compact does not limit, repeal, or supersede any state laws;
 - **Article 10 – Page 9:** Construction and Severability – Provides that all phrases, clauses, sentences and provisions are severable.
- **Section 2:** Provides for an immediate effective date.