

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SENATOR ELVI GRAY-JACKSON  
SENATE DISTRICT G

## **Sponsor Statement: Senate Bill 120 Climate Change Commission**

Alaska faces an unprecedented threat from climate change, affecting our communities, traditional ways of life, fish and game populations, natural ecosystems, and the state's economy. Senate Bill 120 establishes the Alaska Climate Change Emergency Response Commission to provide a coordinated, strategic approach to mitigating these challenges and enhancing our resilience.

This bill reflects the legislature's acknowledgment of the climate crisis as a state of emergency, emphasizing the need for proactive planning and response. The commission, housed in the Governor's office, will consist of 15 members, combining state departmental representatives and municipal leaders from diverse regions across Alaska. This ensures broad representation and input from those directly impacted by climate change effects.

The commission is charged with developing a comprehensive climate response strategy to identify our most vulnerable sectors and communities and proposing actionable solutions. The commission will coordinate with state agencies, local governments, and the University of Alaska to maximize resources and innovation. It will be the goal of the commission to advance diverse energy options, adaptive infrastructure, and CO2 reduction strategies; as well as monitoring climate impacts. The commission will work in harmony with rural and tribal organizations through grant writing and assistance programs.

To maintain transparency and accountability, the commission will submit an annual report to the Governor and Legislature, outlining threats, progress, and recommendations. SB 120 is a vital step toward safeguarding Alaska's environment, economy, and communities for future generations.

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