



LAWS OF ALASKA

1990

Source

CSHB 402(SA)

Chapter No.

74

AN ACT

Relating to a center for information technology at the University of Alaska Anchorage and to enhanced geographic information systems within the University of Alaska system.

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

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1, LINE 11

Approved by the Governor: June 4, 1990
Actual Effective Date: September 2, 1990

AN ACT

Relating to a center for information technology at the University of Alaska Anchorage and to enhanced geographic information systems within the University of Alaska system.

* Section 1. FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

(1) the state has an enormous investment in information systems including telecommunications, geographic information, information management, and software development;

(2) telecommunication systems are crucial to the state's prosperity and well-being;

(3) in implementing information systems, the state has not ensured that the development is most responsive to the needs and wishes of the people and best able to enhance the state's economy;

(4) the telecommunication system in the state has not kept pace with recent technological developments;

(5) several University of Alaska departments have been active in exploring information issues of importance to the state;

(6) geographic information systems are useful tools for managing vast quantities of geographic data essential to natural resources development, environmental assessment, urban and regional planning, engineering design and drafting, land records management, and other activities of the state and local governments;

(7) the effective use of geographic information technology has

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1 the potential to provide substantial benefits to the state and local gov-
2 ernments through efficiencies from automation, increased capabilities for
3 analysis, and the provision of better data for decision making;

4 (8) the state and local governments have made major financial
5 investments in geographic information systems and data bases, but these
6 efforts have not been coordinated for maximum utility;

7 (9) a demand exists in state and local agencies and private
8 industry for trained technicians and professionals in the field of geo-
9 graphic information technology; and

10 (10) a statewide center for information technology that would
11 draw on the expertise and resources of the university system, attract
12 scholars of international reputation, provide leadership in information
13 planning, policy, and management, offer outreach programs, offer a continu-
14 ing program of applied research, and make expert advice available to the
15 university, state government, and private industry should be established.

16 * Sec. 2. PURPOSE. The purpose of the center for information tech-
17 nology is to foster and facilitate, through the various schools and col-
18 leges, multidisciplinary efforts in education and to engage in research in
19 information management, applied telecommunications, geographic information
20 systems, and software development, and to develop ways of making electron-
21 ically stored information more accessible to users. The center will pro-
22 vide a mechanism for cooperation between university programs and faculty
23 and a variety of users, including students, government agencies, research-
24 ers, professionals in related disciplines, and the general public. The
25 center will be able to conduct applied research, provide support for educa-
26 tion and training in information technology, conduct conferences and semi-
27 nars, work closely with private industry to foster cooperative programs
28 leading to economic development in both rural and urban areas of the state,
29 and assist state and local governments in policy development, management,

and planning.

* Sec. 3. AS 14.40 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 14.40.095. ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTER FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AT UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE. (a) The University of Alaska may establish a center for information technology at the University of Alaska Anchorage with major components at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the University of Alaska Southeast. The center may charge fees for the services it provides. The university shall account for all fees collected under this section. The annual estimated balance in the account may be used by the legislature to make appropriations to the university to carry out the purposes of this section.

(b) The center may

(1) provide support for education, training, and research in information technologies to students, professionals, and the general public;

(2) support research on the applications, effects, and management of information technologies and provide research results to the general public;

(3) maintain an inventory of telecommunication research in the state;

(4) develop and maintain a collection that includes state documents, research reports, and other telecommunication applications materials including videotapes, software, lesson plans, and scripts;

(5) support the development and expansion of the geographic information system curriculum of the University of Alaska, including the possible establishment of undergraduate and masters programs;

(6) develop and sponsor land record and geographic information system training workshops and continuing education seminars in

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1 cooperation with the appropriate departments of the university;

2 (7) support or undertake research projects that apply geo-
3 graphic information technology to state issues and problems;

4 (8) provide information on the availability of federal,
5 state, municipal, and other sources of geographic information, includ-
6 ing aerial photography and digital data bases related to surveying and
7 land records, natural resource inventories, and related data;

8 (9) prepare and publish on a regular basis research find-
9 ings and periodicals relating to the center's activities;

10 (10) assist state agencies and municipalities in the devel-
11 opment of policies, procedures, and capabilities for public access to
12 automated geographic information;

13 (11) recommend, in consultation with the Telecommunications
14 Information Council and affected state and local agencies and advisory
15 boards, model standards and strategies relating to the implementation,
16 indexing, documentation, mapping, data exchange, and other aspects of
17 land records management and geographic information system development.

18 (c) The university shall include in its annual report to the
19 legislature a summary of the center's revenue and expenditures during
20 the preceding two years.

21 * Sec. 4. The University of Alaska shall submit a report to the legis-
22 lature before February 15, 1991, concerning the progress made in establish-
23 ing the center for information technology at the University of Alaska
24 Anchorage.