

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 68(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/26/97

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATORS WARD, Wilken

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the Task Force on Privatization; and providing for an
2 effective date."

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

4 * **Section 1.** FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) The legislature finds that

5 (1) the annual cost of state government is exceeding the annual revenue of the
6 state;

7 (2) there may be functions of state government that could be performed more
8 efficiently by individuals or businesses in the private sector;

9 (3) other states are considering privatization of some of their governmental
10 functions;

11 (4) more information is needed before the legislature can determine whether
12 privatization is a feasible alternative for this state to pursue in controlling its fiscal problems.

13 (b) The legislature intends to consider all reasonable methods to deal with the state
14 revenue shortfall.

1 * **Sec. 2.** TASK FORCE ON PRIVATIZATION ESTABLISHED. (a) There is established
2 in the legislative branch the Task Force on Privatization consisting of

3 (1) three members appointed by the governor, one of whom shall be a public
4 member selected from a list of nominees submitted by labor organizations that represent state
5 employees primarily engaged in building or other trades, and one of whom shall be a public
6 member selected from a list of nominees submitted by labor organizations that represent state
7 employees that are not primarily engaged in building or other trades;

8 (2) three members of the senate appointed by the president of the senate; two
9 shall be members of the majority and one shall be a member of the minority;

10 (3) three members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of
11 the house; two shall be members of the majority and one shall be a member of the minority;

12 (4) two public members appointed by the president of the senate; and

13 (5) two public members appointed by the speaker of the house.

14 (b) The president of the senate shall select a member from among those appointed to
15 the task force by the president of the senate to serve as co-chair of the task force. The
16 speaker of the house of representatives shall select a member from among those appointed to
17 the task force by the speaker of the house of representatives to serve as co-chair of the task
18 force.

19 * **Sec. 3.** COMPENSATION OF PUBLIC MEMBERS. The public members of the Task
20 Force on Privatization are not eligible for compensation but are entitled to per diem and travel
21 expenses authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

22 * **Sec. 4.** MEETINGS; OATH. (a) The Task Force on Privatization shall meet as
23 frequently as the task force determines necessary to perform its work and may meet during
24 the interim as well as during legislative sessions. The task force may meet and vote by
25 teleconference.

26 (b) A co-chair of the task force may administer an oath to a witness appearing before
27 the task force.

28 * **Sec. 5.** DUTIES. The Task Force on Privatization shall

29 (1) review and evaluate the policies and recommendations of the other states
30 that are studying or have implemented recommendations to privatize any of their governmental
31 functions;

1 (2) review state contracting policy and procedures, including competitive
2 bidding procedures;

3 (3) identify functions of our state government that could economically and
4 appropriately be privatized, if any;

5 (4) solicit public comment about its subjects of consideration;

6 (5) submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the governor
7 and the legislature by November 15, 1997, concerning state contracting policy and procedures
8 and privatization of state government functions in the Department of Transportation and Public
9 Facilities, the Department of Corrections, and the Department of Health and Social Services;
10 the report shall suggest legislation that may be needed to accomplish the recommendations;
11 and

12 (6) submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the governor
13 and the legislature by November 15, 1998, concerning privatization of government functions
14 of state agencies not addressed in the first report; the report shall suggest legislation that may
15 be needed to accomplish the recommendations.

16 * **Sec. 6.** This Act is repealed on December 1, 1998.

17 * **Sec. 7.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).