

**SENATE BILL NO. 223**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST

Introduced: 1/12/98

Referred: State Affairs

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act lowering the age requirement from 60 years to 55 years for purposes  
2 of senior housing programs; and repealing a provision relating to the interest rate  
3 on senior housing loans made by the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation."

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

5 \* **Section 1.** FINDINGS AND PURPOSE. (a) The legislature finds that

6 (1) it is necessary to ensure that decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing  
7 is available in the state for seniors;

8 (2) senior housing should be made available to as many people as possible; and

9 (3) federal law accommodates certain types of senior housing for people 55  
10 years of age or older under 42 U.S.C. 3607(b) (Fair Housing Act).

11 (b) It is the purpose of this Act to standardize state and federal senior housing age  
12 requirements.

13 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 18.56.799(2) is amended to read:

14 (2) "senior housing"

1 (A) means construction or improvement undertaken primarily  
2 to provide dwelling accommodations for persons 55 [60] years of age or older,  
3 including conventional housing, housing for frail elderly, group homes,  
4 congregate housing, residential horizontal property regimes organized under  
5 AS 34.07, residential cooperatives organized under AS 10.15 or AS 34.08,  
6 residential condominiums organized under AS 34.08, and other housing that  
7 meets special needs of the elderly;

8 (B) includes acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of land,  
9 buildings, improvements, and other nonhousing facilities that are incidental or  
10 appurtenant to the housing described in (A) of this paragraph.

11 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 18.56.800 is amended to read:

12 **Sec. 18.56.800. Declaration of purpose.** There exists in the state a serious  
13 shortage of decent, safe, and sanitary residential housing available at low or moderate  
14 prices or rentals to persons 55 [60] years of age or older. There also exists in the state  
15 organizations whose purposes are to provide the kinds of housing needed to alleviate  
16 this shortage. Development work to provide such housing involves substantial expense  
17 that is often beyond the resources of the organizations.

18 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 18.56.720 is repealed.