

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 263(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/2/98
Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATORS TORGERSON, Pearce, Sharp

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to secondary roads and to the statewide transportation
2 improvement program; and providing for an effective date."

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

4 * **Section 1.** AS 44.42 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 44.42.090. Statewide transportation improvement program.** (a) The
6 department shall prepare a statewide transportation improvement program that includes
7 the following transportation categories: national highway system, trails and recreation
8 access to Alaska projects, and community transportation. The program shall be
9 prepared and revised as frequently as necessary for state participation in federal
10 highway, transit, and transportation programs or, in the absence of a federal
11 requirement, as frequently as the commissioner otherwise determines appropriate. The
12 program must include a priority list of transportation projects in each transportation
13 category to be carried out in each of, at least, the first three years of the program. The
14 department shall evaluate and rank proposed transportation projects in each category

1 in accordance with the process and standards established by the department by
2 regulation, except the department shall evaluate and rank proposed transportation
3 projects in the community transportation category in accordance with (b) - (d) of this
4 section.

5 (b) Projects included in the community transportation category are those
6 projects, as determined by the department, in one of the following subcategories: rural
7 and urban streets and roads, remote roads and trails, transit projects, and Alaska marine
8 highway system. The department may not include a project in the community
9 transportation category if the project is eligible for evaluation under the national
10 highway system category or the trails and recreation access to Alaska projects
11 category.

12 (c) The department shall rank community transportation projects proposed to
13 be undertaken in each year of the statewide transportation improvement program in
14 accordance with the priority of the project. In determining the priority of each
15 community transportation project, the department shall determine 40 percent of the
16 ranking of the project based on the volume of use of the facility that is the subject of
17 the project. The department shall then give additional priority to upgrading an
18 unimproved or hot asphaltic road if the department receives a request by a municipality
19 for the transfer of the road or a portion of the road to the municipality and, after the
20 upgrading is completed, the department shall transfer to the municipality the road or
21 the portion of it that is within the boundaries of the municipality.

22 (d) The department shall allocate, for planning purposes under this section, at
23 least 60 percent of the anticipated appropriations for the community transportation
24 category for projects in the rural and urban streets and roads subcategory. The
25 department may allocate the remainder of the anticipated appropriations for the
26 community transportation category among the other subcategories. If the department
27 finds that there are not enough eligible projects within a subcategory to fully use the
28 amount of the anticipated appropriations allocated to that subcategory, the department
29 shall redistribute the excess allocation equally among the other subcategories.

30 * **Sec. 2. SECONDARY ROADS.** (a) The Department of Transportation and Public
31 Facilities shall adopt regulations establishing design and construction standards for secondary

1 roads that are uniform throughout the state, shall identify unimproved secondary roads, and
2 shall rank those unimproved secondary roads in the order in which they should be upgraded
3 by the department. Standards adopted for secondary roads under this subsection need not
4 conform to those adopted by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation
5 Officials.

6 (b) A municipality may request the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
7 to transfer to the municipality the ownership of a secondary road or that portion of the road
8 that is within the boundaries of the municipality. If the secondary road meets the standards
9 established under (a) of this section, the department may transfer the road or a portion of the
10 road to the municipality. The department shall give priority to upgrading an unimproved
11 secondary road if the department receives a request for the transfer of that road or a portion
12 of the road to a municipality under this subsection.

13 (c) Each fiscal year, \$20,000,000 may be appropriated from federal or other funds to
14 the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities for upgrading unimproved secondary
15 roads and for the costs of transferring the ownership of secondary roads to municipalities
16 under this section.

17 (d) For purposes of this section, "unimproved secondary road" means a dirt or gravel
18 road or a road that has received a cold asphaltic application, and that

19 (1) is dedicated to public use;

20 (2) is used by automotive equipment;

21 (3) is under the control of the Department of Transportation and Public
22 Facilities; and

23 (4) does not meet the standards established under (a) of this section.

24 * **Sec. 3.** Section 2 of this Act is repealed June 30, 2003.

25 * **Sec. 4.** This Act takes effect July 1, 1998.