

HOUSE BILL NO. 183

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON UTILITY RESTRUCTURING

Introduced: 4/9/99

Referred: House Special Committee on Utility Restructuring, Labor and Commerce

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the powers and duties of the chair of the Alaska Public
2 Utilities Commission; relating to membership on the Alaska Public Utilities
3 Commission; and relating to the annual report of the Alaska Public Utilities
4 Commission."

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

6 * **Section 1.** AS 42.05.020(b) is amended to read:

7 (b) The governor shall designate one member of the commission as **chair**
8 [CHAIRMAN] of the commission. This member shall serve as **chair** [CHAIRMAN]
9 for a term of four years, but may be appointed for successive terms. **The chair is**
10 **responsible for the administration of the commission and commission employees.**

11 * **Sec. 2.** AS 42.05.040 is repealed and reenacted to read:

12 **Sec. 42.05.040. Qualifications of members.** No more than two members of
13 the commission may be members of the same political party. A person may not be
14 appointed or reappointed to the commission for one year after changing political party

1 membership.

2 * **Sec. 3.** AS 42.05.101(a) is amended to read:

3 (a) The **chair of the** commission shall establish **for the commission** a
4 principal office and branch offices necessary to discharge its business efficiently. For
5 the convenience of the public or of parties to a proceeding, the commission may hold
6 meetings, hearings, or other proceedings at other locations.

7 * **Sec. 4.** AS 42.05.111(b) is amended to read:

8 (b) The **chair of the** commission may employ temporary legal counsel **for the**
9 **commission** from time to time in proceedings before the commission in which the
10 attorney general is representing the public interest or a party before the commission.

11 * **Sec. 5.** AS 42.05.121 is amended to read:

12 **Sec. 42.05.121. Employment of commission personnel.** (a) The commission
13 may employ an executive director who shall have had at least five years of experience
14 in public utility management or regulation, law, accounting, engineering, or an allied
15 field. The executive director is responsible for directing the administrative functions
16 of the commission and carrying out the policies as set by the commission. The **chair**
17 **of the** commission may employ engineers, hearing officers, administrative law judges
18 to the extent provided by AS 42.06.140(b), experts, clerks, accountants, and other
19 agents and assistants **considered** [IT CONSIDERS] necessary. Employees and agents
20 of the commission who are not partially exempt under AS 39.25.120, other than legal
21 counsel, are in the classified service under AS 39.25.100.

22 (b) In addition to **the** [ITS] staff of regular employees, the **chair of the**
23 commission may contract for and engage the services of consultants and experts the
24 commission considers necessary.

25 * **Sec. 6.** AS 42.05.211 is amended to read:

26 **Sec. 42.05.211. Annual report.** The commission shall, by February **1** [15] of
27 each year, publish an annual report reviewing its work and notify the legislature that
28 the report is available. The report must contain

29 **(1)** information and data that bear a significant relationship to the
30 development and regulation of public utility services in the state;

31 **(2)** [AND INCLUDE] an outline of the commission's program for the

1 development and regulation of public utility services in the forthcoming year;

2 (3) a summary of the activities of the commission during the
3 previous year; and

4 (4) a report on and evaluation of the timeliness of the commission's
5 action on dockets during the previous year.

6 * Sec. 7. AS 42.05.050 is repealed.