

HOUSE BILL NO. 299

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE DYSON

Introduced: 1/14/02

Referred: Community and Regional Affairs, Resources

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act providing for the naming and renaming of Alaska geographic features."**

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

3 *** Section 1.** AS 41.35.350(a) is amended to read:

4 (a) The duties of the commission are to

5 (1) survey, evaluate, and catalog Alaska prehistory and history
6 materials now in print;

7 (2) ascertain and register what Alaska prehistory and history work is
8 now in progress;

9 (3) identify the existing gaps in the coverage of Alaska's past in
10 presently available published works and establish priorities for bridging them;

11 (4) prepare a thematic study of Alaska's history for historic
12 preservation;

13 (5) identify the sources of Alaska's history;

14 (6) coordinate the production and publication of works that will
15 adequately present all aspects of Alaska's past;

1 (7) cooperate with the federal government in programs relating to
2 history and archaeology;

3 (8) develop criteria for the evaluation of state monuments and historic
4 sites and all real and personal property that may be considered to be of historic,
5 prehistoric, or archeological significance as would justify their acquisition and
6 ownership by the state;

7 (9) cooperate with the department in formulating and administering a
8 statewide historic sites survey under 16 U.S.C. 470-470n (P.L. 89-665, National
9 Historic Preservation Act of 1966);

10 (10) review those surveys and historic preservation plans that may be
11 required, and approve properties for nomination to the National Register as provided
12 for in 16 U.S.C. 470-470n (P.L. 89-665, National Historic Preservation Act of 1966);

13 (11) provide necessary assistance to the governor and the legislature
14 for achieving balanced and coordinated state policies and programs for the
15 preservation of the state's historic, prehistoric, and archeological resources;

16 (12) consult with local historical district commissions regarding the
17 establishment of historical districts under AS 29.55.010 - 29.55.020 and the approval
18 of project alterations under AS 45.98.040; recommend, if appropriate, the formulation
19 of additional criteria for the designation of historical districts under AS 29.55.020(b);
20 approve plans for and evaluate the suitability of specific structures for purposes of
21 loan eligibility and continuance under the historical district revolving loan fund
22 (AS 45.98); and consult with the Department of Community and Economic
23 Development relative to the adoption of regulations for historical district loans under
24 AS 45.98;

25 (13) determine the correct and most appropriate names of the lakes,
26 streams, places, and other geographic features in the state and their spelling;

27 (14) pass upon and give names to lakes, streams, places, and other
28 geographic features in the state for which no single generally acceptable name has
29 been in use;

30 (15) cooperate with local subdivisions of government and, with their
31 approval, change the names of lakes, streams, places, and other geographic features to

1 eliminate duplication of names in the state;

2 (16) prepare and publish an official state dictionary of geographic
3 names and publish it for sale, either as a complete whole or in parts when ready; and

4 (17) serve as the state representatives of the United States Board on
5 Geographic Names and cooperate with that board; **where the official state and**
6 **federal names of a lake, stream, place, or other geographic feature differ, the**
7 **commission shall propose to the board that the board change the federal name to**
8 **match the state name** [SO THAT THERE IS NO CONFLICT BETWEEN THE
9 STATE AND FEDERAL DESIGNATIONS OF GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES IN
10 THE STATE].

11 * **Sec. 2.** AS 41.35.350(b) is amended to read:

12 (b) In carrying out its duties to name geographic features under this section,
13 the commission **shall select names that have a direct connection with Alaska or**
14 **Alaska's peoples. The commission shall review all existing official names of**
15 **geographic features, identify the names that do not have a direct connection with**
16 **Alaska or Alaska's peoples, review alternative names that have been used for the**
17 **places, and rename the places with names that have a direct connection with**
18 **Alaska or Alaska's peoples. The commission** shall consider using Alaska Native
19 place names for geographic features in the state [THAT HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY
20 BEEN NAMED], using Native language writing systems accepted by the Alaska
21 Native Language Center of the University of Alaska at Fairbanks. **For purposes of**
22 **this subsection, a name that has a direct connection with Alaska or Alaska's**
23 **peoples**

24 (1) **commemorates a person who was present in and had a**
25 **significant role in the area of the feature being named;**

26 (2) **has been widely used in the region of the geographic feature;**

27 (3) **is particularly descriptive of the geographic feature; or**

28 (4) **describes a significant event that happened in the vicinity of the**
29 **geographic feature.**

30 * **Sec. 3.** AS 41.35.350(c) is amended to read:

31 (c) When the commission gives a name to a lake, stream, place, or other

1 geographic feature in the state, the name is the official name of the geographic feature
2 and shall be used in all maps, records, documents, and other publications issued by the
3 state or its departments and political subdivisions. **The commission shall establish a**
4 **policy regarding the use of English translations of non-English words and**
5 **whether translations, where included, should be considered a part of the official**
6 **name. When the official name under this section differs from the official federal**
7 **name, both official names shall be used, with the federal name in parentheses.**