

HOUSE BILL NO. 512

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

BY REPRESENTATIVES CRAWFORD, Berkowitz, Gara, Morgan, Foster, Joule

Introduced: 2/16/04

Referred: House Special Committee on Economic Development, International Trade, and Tourism, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing the Hydrogen Energy Partnership in the Department of**
2 **Community and Economic Development; requiring the commissioner of community and**
3 **economic development to seek public and private funding for the partnership; providing**
4 **for the contingent repeal of an effective date; and providing for an effective date."**

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

6 * **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
7 to read:

8 LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

- 9 (1) scientists recognize hydrogen as a potential source of fuel;
10 (2) with further research and development, hydrogen could competitively
11 serve as an alternative source of energy for fueling vehicles and generating electricity;
12 (3) there is significant federal government and private sector investment in
13 hydrogen research and development programs; and
14 (4) Alaska is an excellent site to attract federal government and industry

1 investment in hydrogen due to the following advantages:

2 (A) the availability of indigenous renewable resources, including
3 sufficient geothermal energy for processing hydrogen at an industrial scale;

4 (B) a source of zeolites for hydrogen storage and handling; and

5 (C) Alaska's location for hydrogen transport around the Pacific Rim;

6 (5) with its traditional high fuel costs and a significant source of renewable
7 energy resources, Alaska could attract advanced technology development companies for
8 research and development, testing, and deployment of hydrogen as a fuel source; these factors
9 can lead to the development of a hydrogen fuel industry resulting in job growth and a more
10 robust state economy.

11 * **Sec. 2.** AS 41.98 is amended by adding a new section to read:

12 **Sec. 41.98.190. Hydrogen energy partnership.** (a) There is established in
13 the Department of Community and Economic Development the hydrogen energy
14 partnership.

15 (b) Members of the partnership shall be appointed by the commissioner of
16 community and economic development to represent

17 (1) the federal government;

18 (2) state government;

19 (3) the University of Alaska;

20 (4) political subdivisions of the state;

21 (5) tribal organizations of the state;

22 (6) the fossil fuel industry;

23 (7) nonfossil fuel energy industry; and

24 (8) private environmental conservation groups.

25 (c) The partnership members shall serve without compensation but are entitled
26 to transportation expenses and per diem as authorized for members of boards and
27 commissions under AS 39.20.180.

28 (d) The hydrogen energy partnership shall facilitate the development of a
29 hydrogen fuel industry in Alaska by means including

30 (1) meeting with hydrogen energy interests to plan hydrogen energy
31 research and development;

1 (2) proposing policy to promote federal and private industry
2 investment in hydrogen energy research and development;

3 (3) evaluating the market for hydrogen energy production;

4 (4) proposing tax incentives for investment in a hydrogen energy
5 infrastructure; and

6 (5) reporting annually to the legislature on or before the 20th day of
7 each regular session on the development of hydrogen energy production in the state.

8 * **Sec. 3.** AS 44.33.020 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

9 (44) provide staff support for the hydrogen energy partnership
10 established under AS 41.98.190, and the University of Alaska shall provide assistance
11 to the commissioner upon request.

12 * **Sec. 4.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
13 read:

14 **FUNDING FOR HYDROGEN ENERGY PARTNERSHIP.** The commissioner of
15 community and economic development shall seek federal and private sources of funding to
16 cover the costs of the establishment of and operation of the hydrogen energy partnership
17 established in sec. 2 of this Act.

18 * **Sec. 5.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
19 read:

20 **CONDITIONAL EFFECT.** Sections 2 and 3 of this Act take effect only if the
21 Department of Community and Economic Development obtains sufficient funding under sec.
22 4 of this Act.

23 * **Sec. 6.** If secs. 2 and 3 of this Act have not taken effect under sec. 5 of this Act by
24 June 30, 2009, secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of this Act are repealed June 30, 2009.

25 * **Sec. 7.** If secs. 2 and 3 of this Act have not taken effect under sec. 5 of this act by
26 June 30, 2009, sec. 8 of this Act is repealed on June 30, 2009.

27 * **Sec. 8.** Sections 2 and 3 of this Act take effect 30 days after the commissioner of
28 community and economic development notifies the revisor of statutes that sufficient funding
29 required under sec. 4 of this Act has been obtained.

30 * **Sec. 9.** Section 4 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).