

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 108(FIN) am

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Amended: 3/22/05

Offered: 3/18/05

Sponsor(s): HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the regulation of water and sewer utilities of political subdivisions**
2 **that are not in competition with other water and sewer utilities; and providing for an**
3 **effective date."**

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

5 * **Section 1.** AS 42.05.711(b) is amended to read:

6 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection and in (o) of this section,
7 public utilities owned and operated by a political subdivision of the state, or electric
8 operating entities established as the instrumentality of two or more public utilities
9 owned and operated by political subdivisions of the state, are exempt from this
10 chapter, other than AS 42.05.221 - 42.05.281 and 42.05.385. However,

11 (1) the governing body of a political subdivision may elect to be
12 subject to this chapter; and

13 (2) a utility or electric operating entity that is owned and operated by a
14 political subdivision and that directly competes with another utility or electric

1 operating entity is subject to this chapter and any other utility or electric operating
 2 entity owned and operated by the political subdivision is also subject to this chapter;
 3 this paragraph does not apply to

4 (A) a utility or electric operating entity owned and operated by
 5 a political subdivision that competes with a telecommunications utility;

6 (B) a water utility owned by a political subdivision that
 7 does not directly compete with another water utility; or

8 (C) a sewer utility owned by a political subdivision that
 9 does not directly compete with another sewer utility.

10 * **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
 11 read:

12 EFFECT ON PENDING MATTERS BEFORE THE REGULATORY
 13 COMMISSION. On and after the effective date of this section, the Regulatory Commission
 14 of Alaska may continue to investigate and make determinations in regard to any matters
 15 concerning a water or a sewer utility exempt from AS 42.05 as provided by
 16 AS 42.05.711(b)(2)(B) and (C), added by sec. 1 of this Act, that is pending on the effective
 17 date of this section; however, the authority of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska to
 18 continue to investigate and make determinations concerning a matter is limited to issues
 19 relating to the time period before the effective date of this section.

20 * **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
 21 read:

22 CONTINGENT EFFECT. (a) The additions of AS 42.05.711(b)(2)(B) and
 23 42.05.711(b)(2)(C) made by sec. 1 of this Act, and sec. 2 of this Act, take effect only if the
 24 governing body of at least one political subdivision that owns a water utility subject to
 25 AS 42.05.711(b)(2)(B), added by sec. 1 of this Act, or the governing body of at least one
 26 political subdivision that owns a sewer utility subject to AS 42.05.711(b)(2)(C), added by sec.
 27 1 of this Act, approves an ordinance that establishes a public body composed of members
 28 approved by the governing body to establish a fair and open process for setting rates for the
 29 water or sewer utility based on standard industry practices, and which includes a role for a
 30 consumer advocate who will represent ratepayer interests in relation to rate setting
 31 proceedings.

1 (b) The chair of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska shall promptly notify the
2 lieutenant governor and the revisor of statutes of the occurrence of the first of the
3 contingencies described in (a) of this section.

4 * **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 and 2 of this Act take effect on the day after the date the chair of the
5 Regulatory Commission of Alaska notifies the lieutenant governor and the revisor of statutes
6 under sec. 3(b) of this Act that a political subdivision has approved an ordinance that
7 establishes a public body composed of members approved by the governing body to establish
8 a fair and open process for setting rates for the water or sewer utility based on standard
9 industry practices, or on the effective date of sec. 3 of this Act, whichever is later.