

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 56(CRA)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/7/07

Referred: Resources, Finance

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES CRAWFORD AND DOLL, Nelson, Gara

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act establishing the Hydrogen Energy Partnership in the Alaska Energy Authority**  
2 **and relating to assistance and support for the partnership; requiring the executive**  
3 **director of the Alaska Energy Authority to seek public and private funding for the**  
4 **partnership; providing for the contingent repeal of an effective date; and providing for**  
5 **an effective date."**

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

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

9 LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

- 10 (1) scientists recognize hydrogen as a potentially useful energy carrier and  
11 energy storage medium;  
12 (2) with further research and development, hydrogen could competitively  
13 serve as an alternative fuel for vehicles and for generating electricity;

1 (3) there is significant federal government and private sector investment in  
2 hydrogen research and development programs; and

3 (4) Alaska is an excellent site to attract federal government and industry  
4 investment in hydrogen because of the following advantages:

5 (A) the availability of indigenous, large scale, stranded renewable  
6 energy resources, including sufficient geothermal energy for producing hydrogen at an  
7 industrial scale;

8 (B) a source of zeolites for gaseous hydrogen storage; and

9 (C) Alaska's location for export of hydrogen and valuable products  
10 from hydrogen around the Pacific Rim;

11 (5) with its traditional high fuel costs and significant diverse renewable energy  
12 resources, Alaska could attract advanced technology development companies for research and  
13 development, testing, and deployment of hydrogen and products produced from hydrogen;  
14 these factors can lead to the development of a hydrogen industry resulting in job growth and a  
15 more robust state economy.

16 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 14.40.040 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

17 (c) The University of Alaska shall provide assistance to the executive director  
18 of the hydrogen energy project established under AS 44.83.540 upon request.

19 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 44.33.020(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

20 (45) provide staff support for the hydrogen energy partnership  
21 established under AS 44.83.540.

22 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 44.83 is amended by adding a new section to read:

23 **Article 5A. Hydrogen Energy.**

24 **Sec. 44.83.540. Hydrogen energy partnership.** (a) There is established in the  
25 Alaska Energy Authority the hydrogen energy partnership.

26 (b) Members of the partnership shall be appointed by the board of directors of  
27 the authority to represent

28 (1) the federal government;

29 (2) state government;

30 (3) the University of Alaska;

31 (4) an Alaska regional development organization;

- 1 (5) tribal organizations of the state;
- 2 (6) the electric utility industry;
- 3 (7) the fossil fuel industry;
- 4 (8) nonfossil fuel energy industry; and
- 5 (9) nonprofit environmental conservation groups.

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

9 (d) The hydrogen energy partnership shall facilitate the development of a  
10 hydrogen fuel and hydrogen-source products industry, based on noncarbon-emitting  
11 energy sources, in Alaska by means including

- 12 (1) meeting with hydrogen energy interests to plan hydrogen energy  
13 research and development;
- 14 (2) proposing policy to promote federal and private industry  
15 investment in hydrogen energy research and development and demonstration projects;
- 16 (3) evaluating the market for hydrogen energy and hydrogen-source  
17 products production, Alaska utilization, and export;
- 18 (4) proposing tax incentives for investment in a hydrogen energy  
19 infrastructure; and
- 20 (5) reporting annually to the legislature on or before the 20th day of  
21 each regular session on the development of hydrogen energy and hydrogen-source  
22 products production in the state.

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

25 **FUNDING FOR HYDROGEN ENERGY PARTNERSHIP.** The executive director of  
26 the Alaska Energy Authority shall seek federal and private sources of funding to cover the  
27 costs of the establishment of and operation of the hydrogen energy partnership established in  
28 sec. 4 of this Act.

29 \* **Sec. 6.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
30 read:

31 **CONDITIONAL EFFECT.** Sections 2, 3, and 4 of this Act take effect only if the

1 Alaska Energy Authority obtains sufficient funding under sec. 5 of this Act.

2 \* **Sec. 7.** If secs. 2, 3, and 4 of this Act have not taken effect under sec. 6 of this Act by  
3 June 30, 2012, secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8 of this Act are repealed June 30, 2012.

4 \* **Sec. 8.** Sections 2, 3, and 4 of this Act take effect 30 days after the executive director of  
5 the Alaska Energy Authority notifies the revisor of statutes that sufficient funding required  
6 under sec. 4 of this Act has been obtained.

7 \* **Sec. 9.** Sections 5 and 6 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).