

**HOUSE BILL NO. 80**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES SALMON AND CISSNA

Introduced: 1/16/07

Referred: Transportation, Finance

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act expanding the Alaska marine highway system to Yukon and Kuskokwim River  
2 locations and relating to the duty of the Department of Transportation and Public  
3 Facilities to construct, purchase, or lease ferry terminal facilities."

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

5 \* **Section 1.** AS 19.65.011 is amended to read:

6 **Sec. 19.65.011. Comprehensive long-range plan.** The Department of  
7 Transportation and Public Facilities shall prepare a comprehensive long-range plan for  
8 the development and improvement of the Alaska marine highway system, including a  
9 study on the feasibility of expanding to Yukon and Kuskokwim River locations,  
10 and shall revise and update the plan at least every five years. The department shall  
11 submit the comprehensive long-range plan and revisions and updates of the plan to the  
12 legislature.

13 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 19.65.030(a) is amended to read:

14 (a) The department may [SHALL] construct, purchase, or lease ferry terminal

1 facilities at locations, **including communities along the Yukon and Kuskokwim**  
2 **Rivers**, it selects for the loading and unloading of passengers and vehicles under their  
3 own power, on and off ferries. The department shall repair and maintain these  
4 facilities. Construction and purchasing under this subsection are governed by  
5 AS 36.30 (State Procurement Code).

6 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 19.65.050(a) is amended to read:

7 (a) The legislature finds that

8 (1) the Alaska marine highway system is an essential part of the state  
9 transportation system, and that it warrants continued and predictable state support;

10 (2) many communities' economies are dependent on a steady and  
11 stable marine highway system service level;

12 (3) **many communities along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers**  
13 **will greatly benefit from regular marine highway transportation service for**  
14 **passengers and freight;**

15 (4) the state's tourism industry is greatly enhanced by a dependable  
16 marine highway transportation network; and

17 (5) [(4)] efficient and prudent management of the system will benefit  
18 the state's economy and foster economic development.