

**HOUSE BILL NO. 193**

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

**BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON**

**Introduced: 3/16/11**

**Referred: Labor and Commerce, Judiciary**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to timelines of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska; and relating to**  
2 **the function of public advocacy for regulatory affairs within the Department of Law."**

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

4 **\* Section 1.** AS 42.05.175(b) is amended to read:

5 (b) Notwithstanding a suspension ordered under AS 42.05.421, the  
6 commission shall issue a final order not later than 270 days after a complete tariff  
7 filing is made [FOR A TARIFF FILING THAT DOES NOT CHANGE THE  
8 UTILITY'S REVENUE REQUIREMENT OR RATE DESIGN].

9 **\* Sec. 2.** AS 42.05.175(h) is amended to read:

10 (h) If the commission does not issue and serve a final order regarding an  
11 application or suspended tariff under **(a) or (b)** [SECTION (a), (b), OR (c)] of this  
12 section within the applicable timeline specified, and if the commission does not extend  
13 the timeline in accordance with (f) of this section, the application or suspended tariff  
14 filing shall be considered approved and shall go into effect immediately.

1 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 44.23.020(e) is amended to read:

2 (e) There is established within the Department of Law the function of public  
3 advocacy for regulatory affairs. The attorney general shall participate as a party **and**  
4 **independently investigate all relevant issues** in a matter that comes before the  
5 Regulatory Commission of Alaska when the attorney general determines that  
6 participation is in the public interest. When considering whether participation is in the  
7 public interest, the attorney general shall consider

8 (1) **the issues the Regulatory Commission of Alaska must take into**  
9 **consideration under AS 42.05.141(d);**

10 (2) **the interest of consumers in balancing the need for the lowest**  
11 **reasonable rates to include a fair and reasonable return, calculated to attract**  
12 **necessary capital and the best quality of service;**

13 (3) **the unique interests of the particular consumers of a utility**  
14 **when that utility has a filing before the commission;**

15 (4) **the interest of the general public in obtaining information**  
16 **concerning the utilities and pipeline carriers that serve the general public;**

17 (5) **the public interest in developing appropriate market structures**  
18 **that are fair to competitors and protect the consumer interest in affordable, safe,**  
19 **and reliable service;**

20 (6) **consumer or public interests identified in a proceeding that the**  
21 **private parties to a case are unlikely to represent or articulate.**

22 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 42.05.175(c) is repealed.