

HOUSE BILL NO. 254

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES DICK AND MUÑOZ, Kerttula

Introduced: 1/17/12

Referred: State Affairs, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council**
2 **and relating to the preservation, restoration, and revitalization of Alaska Native**
3 **languages."**

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

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

7 LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds that the preservation of Alaska
8 Native languages is a critical component in the sustenance of cultural identity. The legislature
9 further finds that Alaska Native languages are the foundation of cultures and are vital in
10 maintaining traditional knowledge and understanding.

11 *** Sec. 2.** AS 44.33 is amended by adding a new section to read:

12 **Article 7A. Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council.**

13 **Sec. 44.33.530. Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory**
14 **Council.** (a) The Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council is

1 established in the department for the purpose of recommending the establishment or
 2 reorganization of programs to support the preservation, restoration, and revitalization
 3 of Alaska Native languages.

4 (b) The council established under this section shall

5 (1) advise both the governor and legislature on programs, policies, and
 6 projects to provide for the cost-effective preservation, restoration, and revitalization of
 7 Alaska Native languages in the state;

8 (2) meet at least twice a year to carry out the purposes of the council;
 9 members may participate in meetings telephonically; and

10 (3) prepare reports of its findings and recommendations for the
 11 governor's and the legislature's consideration on or before January 1 of each even-
 12 numbered year.

13 (c) The governor shall appoint to the council established in this section five
 14 voting members who are professional language experts and who represent diverse
 15 regions of the state. In addition, one member of the senate appointed by the president
 16 of the senate and one member of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker
 17 of the house of representatives shall serve on the council as nonvoting members. In
 18 appointing the nonvoting members of the council, the president of the senate and the
 19 speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint a member of the bush caucus, if a
 20 bush caucus exists. In this subsection, "bush caucus" means a group of legislators that
 21 represents rural areas of the state.

22 (d) The members appointed by the governor shall serve at the pleasure of the
 23 governor.

24 (e) Members of the council shall serve without compensation but are entitled
 25 to per diem and travel expenses as provided under AS 39.20.180.

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

28 REPORT; APPOINTMENTS. (a) Notwithstanding AS 44.33.530(b)(3), the first
 29 report under AS 44.33.530(b)(3), added by sec. 2 of this Act, is due on or before July 1, 2014.

30 (b) The governor shall make the appointments required by AS 44.33.530(c), added by
 31 sec. 2 of this Act, on or before December 1, 2012.