

HOUSE BILL NO. 226

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES TARR, DRUMMOND, KERTTULA, JOSEPHSON, AND KAWASAKI

Introduced: 1/21/14

Referred: State Affairs, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act reestablishing the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women; and relating to
2 the purpose and powers of the Alaska Human Relations Commission."

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

4 * **Section 1.** AS 44.19 is amended by adding new sections to read:

5 **Article 6. Alaska Commission on the Status of Women.**

6 **Sec. 44.19.628. Creation and membership of commission.** (a) The Alaska
7 Commission on the Status of Women is established in the Office of the Governor.

8 (b) The commission consists of two members of the executive branch and
9 seven public members, appointed by the governor, who serve at the pleasure of the
10 governor. All members shall be residents of the state. At least one public member shall
11 be a person who manages a household that includes the person's spouse and at least
12 one child and who is not otherwise employed, and at least one public member shall be
13 a single mother who is the head of a household that includes at least one child.

14 (c) The governor shall appoint members on a nonpartisan and

1 nondiscriminatory basis. In making the appointments, the governor shall consider

2 (1) recommendations made by civic organizations, women's
3 organizations, educational and vocational groups, employer groups, labor unions,
4 church groups, homemakers' clubs and organizations, and other groups having an
5 interest in the welfare and status of women;

6 (2) the statewide geographical representation of the commission;

7 (3) minority and low-income representation;

8 (4) the representation of senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and
9 persons from a variety of occupational categories; and

10 (5) the representation of persons with different marital statuses and
11 persons with various numbers of children.

12 (d) The commission shall elect one of its members as chair. The chair may
13 appoint other officers as necessary.

14 **Sec. 44.19.629. Terms of office; compensation.** (a) The term of office of a
15 member of the commission is three years. Terms shall be staggered. A member may
16 not serve more than six consecutive years.

17 (b) A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.
18 A person appointed to a vacancy serves for the unexpired portion of a term.

19 (c) Public members of the commission do not receive compensation for their
20 services but are entitled to per diem and travel allowances authorized by law for other
21 boards and commissions.

22 **Sec. 44.19.630. Meetings.** (a) A majority of the members constitutes a quorum
23 for conducting business and exercising the powers of the commission. The
24 commission shall meet at the call of the chair, at the request of the majority of the
25 members, or at a regularly scheduled time as determined by a majority of the
26 members.

27 (b) The commission shall meet in each region of the state on a rotating basis
28 and may not hold consecutive meetings in the same region of the state. For the
29 purposes of this subsection, the regions of the state are Southcentral Alaska, Southeast
30 Alaska, Kenai Peninsula, Western Alaska (including Kodiak), Interior Alaska, and
31 Northern Alaska.

1 **Sec. 44.19.631. Powers and duties of the commission.** (a) The purpose of the
 2 commission is to improve the status of women in the state by conducting research, by
 3 serving as a referral service for information and education to help women avail
 4 themselves of existing resources to meet their needs, and by making and implementing
 5 recommendations on the opportunities, needs, problems, and contributions of women
 6 in the state, including

- 7 (1) education;
- 8 (2) homemaking;
- 9 (3) civil and legal rights; and
- 10 (4) labor and employment.

11 (b) To accomplish this purpose, the commission may

- 12 (1) act as a clearinghouse and coordinating body for governmental and
 13 nongovernmental information relating to the status of women;
- 14 (2) cooperate with public and private agencies in joint efforts to study
 15 and resolve problems relating to the status of women in the state;
- 16 (3) accumulate and compile information concerning discrimination
 17 against women;
- 18 (4) disseminate the results of research and compilation of data acquired
 19 under (3) of this subsection by publication and other methods, such as public hearings,
 20 conferences, and seminars;
- 21 (5) study and analyze all facts relating to Alaska laws, regulations, and
 22 guidelines with respect to equal protection for women under the state constitution;
- 23 (6) recommend legislative and administrative action on equal treatment
 24 and opportunities for women;
- 25 (7) encourage women to use their capabilities and to assume leadership
 26 roles;
- 27 (8) encourage the development of regional and municipal women's
 28 councils or commissions; and
- 29 (9) accept, on behalf of the state, contributions of services, materials,
 30 or money to assist in meeting the cost of carrying out AS 44.19.628 - 44.19.631.

31 (c) When conducting research, acting as a referral service, serving as a forum

1 for ideas, or developing recommendations related to the welfare of women, the
 2 commission shall solicit and consider information and views from a variety of
 3 constituencies to represent the broad spectrum of diversity that exists with respect to
 4 possible approaches for meeting the needs of women in the state.

5 (d) On the request of the commission, an executive branch department shall
 6 cooperate with the commission in the performance of its duties under this section. The
 7 commission may use legal, technical, secretarial, and administrative services as may
 8 be provided by the governor.

9 (e) The commission shall prepare and publish an annual report on the status of
 10 women in the state, the commission's proceedings for the previous calendar year, and
 11 its recommendations and proposals for change. The commission shall provide the
 12 governor with a copy of the report and notify the legislature that the report is available
 13 by the 15th day of each regular legislative session.

14 * **Sec. 2.** AS 44.19.608 is repealed.

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

17 MEMBERS OF THE ALASKA COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN;
 18 STAGGERED TERMS. Notwithstanding AS 44.19.629, added by sec. 1 of this Act, the
 19 terms of the initially appointed members of the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women,
 20 established under AS 44.19.628, enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, shall be set in the manner
 21 provided by AS 39.05.055(7).