

HOUSE BILL NO. 177

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES SADDLER, Fields

Introduced: 4/24/23

Referred: Resources, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to critical and essential minerals and the global energy transition."**

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

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

5 **PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CRITICAL AND ESSENTIAL MINERALS.** (a)
6 The Office of the Governor shall consider emerging technologies for renewable energy and
7 the technologies' necessary components, consider mineral economics and development and
8 production regulatory frameworks at all levels of government, and develop a strategic plan for
9 the state to encourage mineral exploration, development, production, refining, and value-
10 added manufacturing of critical and essential minerals in the state. The plan must identify

11 (1) strategies to position state production of critical and essential minerals at
12 the center of United States production and manufacturing to implement the global energy
13 transition;

14 (2) the state's ability to develop renewable energy emerging technologies and
15 the technologies' required components;

1 (3) the impacts of different regulatory frameworks on mineral development;
2 and

3 (4) strategies to attract industry investment to the state and to enhance success
4 in exploration and increase discovery of critical and essential minerals.

5 (b) Not later than the first day of the Second Regular Session of the Thirty-Fourth
6 Alaska State Legislature, the Department of Natural Resources shall provide a report to the
7 legislature comparing the state's current production and potential future production to national
8 and global production of critical and essential minerals, including lithium, copper, tin, gold,
9 uranium, platinum, palladium, cobalt, graphite, nickel, silver, zinc, manganese, molybdenum,
10 and chromium. When developing the report, the Department of Natural Resources may
11 consult with appropriate state and federal agencies, the University of Alaska, industry
12 representatives, and advocacy organizations. The report must identify strategies to increase
13 industry exploration for and state production and development of critical and essential
14 minerals in the next three, five, and 10 years. The report must compare the state's permitting
15 timelines and exploration incentives with the permitting timelines and exploration incentives
16 in other jurisdictions. The commissioner of natural resources shall submit the report to the
17 senate secretary and chief clerk of the house of representatives and notify the legislature that
18 the report is available.

19 (c) Not later than the first day of the Second Regular Session of the Thirty-Fourth
20 Alaska State Legislature, the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic
21 Development shall provide a report to the legislature identifying the state's role in innovation,
22 manufacturing, and transportation to support the global energy transition. The report must
23 analyze the potential role of state goods in supply chains critical to the global energy
24 transition, including the potential use of state goods in electric batteries, solar panels, wind
25 turbines, and connected consumer devices. When developing the report, the Department of
26 Commerce, Community, and Economic Development may consult with appropriate state and
27 federal agencies. The report must evaluate whether the state's location is valuable in the
28 global supply chain and identify strategies for the next three, five, and 10 years to develop
29 state innovation, manufacturing, and transportation. The commissioner of commerce,
30 community, and economic development shall submit the report to the senate secretary and
31 chief clerk of the house of representatives and notify the legislature that the report is

1 available.