

*Original*

IN THE HOUSE

BY MR. POLLOCK

HOUSE BILL NO. 77

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

A BILL

For an Act entitled: "An Act to amend Chapter 108, Session Laws of Alaska 1949; providing for establishment of an Alaska Statehood Committee; prescribing its powers; making an appropriation; and declaring an emergency."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA:

Section 1. Section 1 of Chapter 108, Session Laws of Alaska 1949, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 1. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE. (IN RECOGNITION OF NEAR ATTAINMENT OF STATEHOOD FOR ALASKA AND THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT WILL DEVOLVE UPON THE PEOPLE OF ALASKA IN FRAMING A FUNDAMENTALLY SOUND AND WORKABLE STATE CONSTITUTION EMBODYING THE BEST PROVISIONS THAT HAVE EVOLVED IN THE INTEREST OF BETTER GOVERNMENT IN THE SEVERAL STATES, AND IN RECOGNITION OF THE MANY PROBLEMS THAT WILL ATTEND TRANSITION FROM TERRITORIAL STATUS TO STATEHOOD) By referendum the people of Alaska have manifested their desire for Statehood. In recognition of that desire, in the knowledge that Statehood for Alaska has been and is currently and continually being considered by the Federal Congress, and in the belief that Statehood for Alaska is forthcoming in the near future, it is deemed necessary in the public interest to establish a quasi-official, bi-partisan Committee (, NON-GOVERNMENTAL IN CHARACTER,) to

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30

assemble applicable material, to devise methods, make studies ~~(formulate policies)~~ and provide recommendations in a timely manner to: (1) prepare <sup>of an adequate</sup> Statehood Bill for presentation by the Delegate to Congress from Alaska to the Federal Congress. (2) compile statistical data and related material pertaining to Statehood and the Statehood Bill as is deemed necessary. (3) prepare <sup>studies reports, materials</sup> draft of a state constitution. and (4) prepare <sup>studies and recommendations of</sup> ways and means to meet the obvious contingencies attending transition from Territorial status to Statehood.

*Handwritten note:* Bill from Alaska

Section 2. Section 2 of Chapter 108, Session Laws of Alaska 1949, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 2. ALASKA STATEHOOD COMMITTEE. (THERE IS HEREBY CREATED THE ALASKA STATEHOOD COMMITTEE WHICH SHALL BE COMPOSED) The Alaska Statehood Committee established by Chapter 108, Session Laws of Alaska 1949, shall hereinafter be composed of eleven members selected as follows: (THE GOVERNOR SHALL NOMINATE ELEVEN QUALIFIED ADULT PERSONS, WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF ALASKA, NOT MORE THAN SIX OF WHOM BELONG TO THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY. SAID NAMES SHALL BE VOTED UPON BY THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE IN JOINT SESSION ASSEMBLED, AND CHOSEN OR REJECTED BY A MAJORITY OF THE SAID MEMBERS PRESENT AT SAID SESSION.) Eight members shall be selected from the Territorial Legislature. These members shall be chosen and approved by a majority of the Legislature itself in joint session assembled, to compose an interim Legislative Statehood Committee, <sup>two</sup> ~~four~~ members of which shall be from the Territorial Senate ~~preferably one from~~

*Handwritten notes:*  
24  
25  
26  
27

1 ~~each Judicial Division~~ and four members of which shall be  
2 from the Territorial House of Representatives, preferably  
3 ~~one from each Judicial Division~~ <sup>three</sup> members shall be  
4 selected for appointment by the Governor and approved by  
5 the Territorial Legislature in joint session assembled. In  
6 the event of (ANY REJECTIONS,) the rejection of any name  
7 submitted by the Governor, he shall submit additional names  
8 until all positions on the Statehood Committee are filled.  
9 However, should a vacancy thereafter occur, it may be filled  
10 by temporary gubernatorial appointment, upon recommendation  
11 of the remaining members of the Committee, <sup>but such appointments</sup> it shall be the  
12 shall be as made as to keep intact the Congressional  
13 intent of this Act, so far as practical and possible, that  
14 The Committee <sup>shall</sup> be composed of not more than six members of  
15 the same political party. The Delegate to Congress (, HIS  
16 IMMEDIATE PREDECESSOR,) and the Governor of Alaska shall  
17 in addition be ex-officio members of the Committee.

18 Section 3. Section 3 of Chapter 108, Session Laws of  
19 Alaska 1949, is hereby amended to read as follows:

20 Section 3. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE. The  
21 Committee is authorized and directed to:

22 (a) Organize and adopt rules for the conduct of its  
23 business;

24 ((B) ENGAGE THE SERVICES OF A QUALIFIED PERSON TO DO  
25 THE NECESSARY RESEARCH, ACT AS THE EXECUTIVE OF THE  
26 COMMITTEE, AND OTHERWISE REPRESENT THE COMMITTEE IN CARRYING  
27 OUT THE DIRECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE. TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON,  
28 D. C. OR OTHER POINTS IN THE STATES AND TO SUCH POINTS IN  
29 ALASKA AS MAY BE NECESSARY OR ADVISABLE IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED.

(C) HAVE READY, IN PREPARATION FOR THE CONSTITUTIONAL

1 CONVENTION, FULLY DETAILED INFORMATION AND ANALYSES FOR USE  
2 BY THE CONVENTION IN PREPARING THE REQUIRED DRAFT OF A  
3 CONSTITUTION FOR ALASKA, TO THE END THAT THE PEOPLE MAY HAVE  
4 THE OPPORTUNITY OF PASSING UPON AN ENTIRELY SOUND AND  
5 THOROUGHLY PREPARED DOCUMENT;

6 (D) SECURE STUDIES AND ANALYSES UPON WHICH THE  
7 CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION MAY BASE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE  
8 FIRST STATE LEGISLATURE WITH RESPECT TO ORGANIZATIONAL  
9 LEGISLATION NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT INITIAL OPERATIONS OF THE  
10 NEW STATE, AND PRESERVE SUCH MATERIAL FOR USE BY THE FIRST  
11 LEGISLATURE;

12 (E) OBTAIN INFORMATION AND SUGGESTIONS WITH RESPECT  
13 TO THE BEST WAY OF GETTING OVER THE TRANSITION PERIOD  
14 ENTAILED PRIOR TO CONVENING OF THE FIRST STATE LEGISLATURE;

15 (F) MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE DELEGATE FROM ALASKA AT THE  
16 EARLIEST REASONABLE TIME PERTINENT INFORMATION AND  
17 SUGGESTIONS, AND SUCH OTHER ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING PASSAGE  
18 OF THE BEST POSSIBLE ENABLING LEGISLATION BY CONGRESS, AS  
19 THE COMMITTEE MAY DEEM NECESSARY OR ADVISABLE;

20 (G) EMPLOY SUCH ADDITIONAL HELP AND INCUR SUCH OTHER  
21 EXPENSE AS MAY BE REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF  
22 THIS ACT;

23 (H) DO WHATEVER ELSE IT MAY DEEM NECESSARY OR ADVISABLE  
24 TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS ACT.)

25 (b) Elect from its membership by majority vote an  
26 executive officer, who shall act as chairman of the  
27 Committee and carry out the directives of and represent the  
28 Committee in pursuit of its objectives;

29 (c) Engage the services of a qualified person<sup>or persons</sup>to

1 conduct the necessary research and otherwise carry out the  
2 directives of the Committee.

3 (d) Within ninety days of the effective date of this  
4 Act, prepare <sup>over and over</sup> an adequate Statehood Bill, submit same to the  
5 Delegate to Congress from Alaska, and assist him in obtain-  
6 ing its early enactment.

7 (e) Prepare or cause to be prepared a detailed report  
8 comparing for each year from 1936 through 1940 and 1947  
9 through 1952 operating costs by department for function of  
10 the Territorial government and Federal government in Alaska,  
11 to show all financial responsibility which would be assumed  
12 by Alaska under Statehood. The services of the members of  
13 the Territorial Board of Budget and their respective  
14 offices, as well as any other office of the Territory, shall  
15 be made available to procure necessary information and  
16 compile this report. All information and material whatsoever  
17 from the former Statehood Committee authorized by the  
18 Nineteenth Legislature of the Territory of Alaska shall be  
19 procured as soon as possible for study and utilization;

20 (f) As soon as practicable, prepare and hold in  
21 abeyance for transmission to the Constitutional Convention a  
22 fully detailed initial draft of a constitution for the State  
23 of Alaska, and other recommendations to the Constitutional  
24 Convention and the first state legislature, regarding  
25 organizational legislation necessary to implement initial  
26 operations of the new state and to otherwise prepare for the  
27 transition from Territorial status to Statehood;

28 (g) Upon completion of the studies and preparation  
29 outlined in subsections <sup>(d)</sup> and <sup>(e)</sup> (f) and (g), the Committee shall

1 issue a committee report to be widely publicized and  
2 disseminated, which shall include the pertinent facts  
3 concerning Statehood and a digest of the proposed  
4 constitution. ~~As soon as possible thereafter the Committee~~  
5 shall petition the Governor to immediately call for a  
6 special referendum to secure a new expression from the  
7 voters of the Territory as to the desirability of Alaska  
8 becoming a State;

9 (h) ~~If the referendum favors Statehood,~~ The Committee  
10 shall <sup>then</sup> ~~prepare~~ <sup>another</sup> Statehood Bill incorporating therein  
11 necessary provisions based on the knowledge gained from the  
12 aforementioned studies;

13 (i) ~~If the referendum favors Statehood,~~ <sup>after</sup> and a new  
14 Statehood Bill is ~~subsequently~~ prepared, the Committee shall  
15 make a comprehensive study of all previous efforts in the  
16 pursuit of Statehood, rebutting anti-Statehood arguments,  
17 and preparing suitable and adequate exhibits and related  
18 data for Congressional hearings on Alaska Statehood;

19 (j) Employ such additional help and incur such other  
20 expense as may be required to carry out the purposes of this  
21 Act;

22 (k) Do whatever else, including travel, deemed  
23 necessary or advisable to carry out the purposes of this Act.

24 Section 4. Section 4 of Chapter 108, Session Laws of  
25 Alaska 1949, is hereby amended to read as follows:

26 Section 4. MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE. The Committee  
27 shall first meet in Juneau (AS SOON AFTER ITS MEMBERS HAVE  
28 BEEN APPOINTED AS CAN CONVENIENTLY BE ARRANGED, AND UPON  
29 CALL OF THE GOVERNOR) within thirty days after the

1 effective date of this Act. After it has been organized  
2 for the conduct of its business, it shall (SCRUTINIZE THE  
3 STATUS OF THE STATEHOOD MOVEMENT, ASCERTAIN WHAT STEPS TO  
4 INITIATE AND AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THAT SAME BE TAKEN,  
5 SECURE THE SERVICES OF AN EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND FIX HIS  
6 COMPENSATION, AND OTHERWISE DO ALL THAT MAY BE NECESSARY OR  
7 ADVISABLE AT THAT TIME) proceed to carry out the purposes  
8 of this Act. Such first meeting shall not exceed ten days.  
9 The Committee may also hold such other meetings anywhere in  
10 Alaska, not exceeding ten days in duration, as a majority  
11 of its members may deem necessary. (THEREAFTER,) As soon as  
12 practical following the studies and preparation outlined in  
13 subsections (d) and (e) of Section 3, (AND NOT LESS THAN  
14 SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO THE DATE SET PURSUANT TO ANY ACT OF  
15 CONGRESS FOR THE CONVENING OF AN ALASKA STATEHOOD CONVEN-  
16 TION,) and upon call of the Governor, with not less than  
17 thirty days notice, the Committee shall convene in its  
18 principal session in Juneau for a period not exceeding  
19 thirty days to consider the information, data and analyses  
20 which shall have been assembled at that time and proceed to  
21 make its findings, conclusions, report and recommendations  
22 for submission to the (CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION) people as  
23 provided in subsection (c) of Section 3. (THE COMMITTEE  
24 MAY ALSO HOLD SUCH OTHER MEETINGS NOT EXCEEDING TEN DAYS  
25 IN DURATION AS A MAJORITY OF ITS MEMBERS MAY DEEM NECESSARY.  
26 THE FIRST MEETING AND THE PRINCIPAL SESSION ABOVE REFERRED  
27 TO SHALL BE HELD IN JUNEAU, BUT NECESSARY INTERMEDIATE  
28 MEETINGS MAY BE HELD ELSEWHERE IN ALASKA AS THE COMMITTEE  
29 MAY DECIDE, IN CONNECTION WITH MEETINGS HELD IN JUNEAU AND



1           Section 7. (DISSOLUTION OF COMMITTEE) TENURE OF  
2 APPOINTMENT. The Committee shall be appointed for a period  
3 of two years or until re-appointed or replaced in compliance  
4 with the provisions of Section 2, <sup>and Section 6</sup> except that the Committee  
5 shall automatically dissolve at such time as the  
6 constitution drafted by a Congressionally authorized  
7 Constitutional Convention has been approved by vote of  
8 the electorate of Alaska, and any part of the appropriation  
9 hereinafter made which remains unexpended shall revert to  
10 the general fund of the Territory or State.

11           Section 8. Section 8 of Chapter 108, Session Laws of  
12 Alaska 1949, is hereby amended to read as follows:

13           Section 8. APPROPRIATION AND AUDIT OF FUNDS. (THE  
14 SUM OF \$80,000.00, OR SO MUCH THEREOF AS MAY BE NECESSARY,  
15 IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED OUT OF ANY MONEY IN THE TERRITORIAL  
16 TREASURY NOT OTHERWISE APPROPRIATED TO CARRY OUT THE  
17 PURPOSES OF THIS ACT.) An audit of the expenditures  
18 against the original appropriation of \$80,000.00 for use of  
19 the former Statehood Committee established by the  
20 Nineteenth Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, is  
21 hereby authorized and directed. Whatever sum thereafter  
22 remains of the original appropriation shall be supplemented  
23 by appropriation sufficient to establish the original sum  
24 of \$80,000.00, from any money in the Territorial Treasury  
25 not otherwise appropriated, to carry out the purposes of  
26 this Act. There shall be an annual audit of all  
27 expenditures of the Statehood Committee.

28           Section 9. Section 9 of Chapter 108, Session Laws of  
29 Alaska 1949, is hereby amended to read as follows:

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30

Section 9. EMERGENCY. It is the intent of the  
Legislature that the provisions of this Act be expeditiously  
carried out to meet the exigencies created by contemplated  
action of the Federal Congress regarding Statehood. An  
emergency is hereby declared to exist, and this Act shall  
take effect immediately upon its passage and approval.

*Passed 3/3/53*