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IN THE SENATE BY SENATOR ROBISON

SENATE BILL NO. 37

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

A BILL

For an Act entitled: "An Act creating a Legislative Council, prescribing its powers and duties, authorizing an appropriation therefor, and ~~declaring an emergency.~~"

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

Section 1. PURPOSE. Recognizing that one legislative session of sixty days is insufficient time to investigate, study, and intelligently legislate on the many complex problems which face Alaska, it is deemed necessary in the public interest to establish an interim legislative committee, to be called the Legislative Council, to so investigate, study, and recommend to the Legislature.

Section 2. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. MEMBERSHIP. There is hereby created the Legislative Council of the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, which shall consist of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and three other Senators and three other Representatives which shall be appointed by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, respectively, within ten days after the passage and approval of this Act, and within ten days after the organization of the Legislature at each succeeding session. Whenever possible, the membership from each House shall include one member from each Judicial Division and two members from each political party. Members shall serve until their successors are

1 appointed.

2 Section 3. DUTIES. It shall be the duty of the Council  
3 to collect information concerning the government and general  
4 welfare of the Territory, examine the effects of previously  
5 enacted statutes, consider important issues of public policy  
6 and questions of Territory-wide interest, and prepare such  
7 legislative program, in the form of bills or otherwise, as in  
8 its opinion the welfare of the Territory may require. The  
9 Council shall submit a full report of its findings, conclusions,  
10 and recommendations to each Senator, Senator-elect, and Repre-  
11 sentative-elect, and to the Governor, at least thirty days prior  
12 to the convening of each legislative session. This report shall  
13 be deemed public information, and copies thereof shall be avail-  
14 able to the public at reasonable cost.

15 The Council shall assist any Senator, Senator-elect,  
16 Representative, or Representative-elect upon his written request,  
17 by collecting information, making studies and recommendations,  
18 and drafting bills.

19 Section 4. POWERS. The Council shall have the power to  
20 organize and adopt rules for the conduct of its business; to  
21 hire, from outside the membership of the committee, an executive  
22 director and such other research, clerical, and other help as it  
23 deems necessary, and to fix their compensation; to hold public  
24 hearings on subjects under investigation; to contract for the  
25 publication of its reports; to administer oaths to persons  
26 testifying before the Council; to compel the attendance of  
27 witnesses and the production of books, papers, documents, and  
28 records, by subpoena issued over the signature of its chairman;  
29 and to incur such other expense and to do whatever else it may

1 deem necessary or advisable to carry out the purposes of this  
2 Act.

3 In case of disobedience on the part of any person to comply  
4 with any subpoena issued by the Council, or of any witness to  
5 testify, the District Judge of the Division wherein the matter  
6 may occur shall compel obedience by proceeding for contempt.  
7 Each witness who appears before the Council on its order or  
8 subpoena shall receive the fees and mileage provided for wit-  
9 nesses in civil cases in courts of record, which shall be paid  
10 upon presentation of proper vouchers signed by such witness and  
11 approved by the chairman of the Council, out of funds of the  
12 Territorial Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

13 Section 5. COOPERATION OF OFFICIAL AGENCIES. All Terri-  
14 torial officers, departments, boards, commissions, institutions,  
15 and other agencies shall give full cooperation to the Council  
16 and its executive director in the fulfillment of their duties,  
17 by collecting and furnishing information, conducting studies  
18 and making recommendations. Specifically, the facilities of the  
19 Legislative chambers and rooms, and the services of the faculty,  
20 volunteer students, and facilities of the University of Alaska  
21 shall be made available to the Council and its executive director.

22 Section 6. MEETINGS, QUORUM. The Council shall meet  
23 immediately upon the appointment of all of its members, for the  
24 purpose of organizing and fixing the time for its next meeting,  
25 which shall be within six months after the adjournment of the  
26 legislative session. The Council shall also meet once no less  
27 than four months prior to the convening of the next legislative  
28 session, for the purpose of making its final report. The Council  
29 may meet at any other times and at any place within the Territory.

1 of Alaska, which they deem necessary, Provided that meetings may  
2 be called upon the written petition of two members of the Council,  
3 or upon the call of its chairmen. No meeting shall exceed ten  
4 days duration.

5 Full and complete minutes shall be kept of every meeting,  
6 which shall be made part of the final report. Four members shall  
7 constitute a quorum.

8 Section 7. EXPENSES OF MEMBERS. Members of the Council  
9 shall, for time spent at meetings held in accordance with Sec-  
10 tion 6 of this Act, be entitled to receive transportation and  
11 per diem and other allowances at the same rates provided for  
12 members of the Legislature when in actual session assembled.

13 Section 8. Funds for carrying out the provisions of this  
14 Act shall be set forth in the general appropriation bill.  
15 There shall be an annual audit of all expenditures of the Council.

16 Section 9. EMERGENCY. An emergency is hereby declared  
17 to exist, and this Act shall take effect immediately upon its  
18 passage and approval.  
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