

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MRS. FISCHER AND
MESSRS. MCCOMBE AND PETERSEN

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 79

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act directing the Highway and Public
7 Works Department to construct roads to in-
8 accessible areas rich in mineral resources,
9 as shall be determined by the Commissioner
10 of Mines; authorizing an appropriation; and
11 providing for an effective date."

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

13 Section 1. FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSE. The legis-
14 lature hereby finds that many of the areas within the state most
15 rich in mineral resources are inaccessible because of the lack of
16 roads therein; that this inaccessibility of areas of great
17 potential mineral value prohibits the successful extraction of
18 such minerals; that the construction of roads into such areas will
19 increase mineral prospecting, thereby bringing even more minerals
20 into commercial production; that the relatively high cost of
21 constructing such roads prevents private interests from under-
22 taking the development of such areas; that the cost to the state
23 of constructing such roads would many times over be repaid by the
24 increased revenues arising out of the resulting mining industry;
25 that the failure to so develop the many inaccessible areas within
26 the state that are rich in mineral resources is detrimental to the
27 welfare and well-being of the people of Alaska by depriving them
28 of the benefits to the economy of the state to be derived from the
29 commercial exploitation of vast quantities of minerals which can-

1 not be extracted because of the lack of access roads thereto.

2 It is hereby declared to be the purpose of this Act to
3 facilitate the commercial exploitation of the natural resources
4 of this state by authorizing the expenditure of funds to construct
5 roads into and within areas rich in mineral resources which are
6 presently inaccessible.

7 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION AUTHORIZED. There is hereby author-
8 ized an annual appropriation to the Highway and Public Works
9 Department, or its successor, for the purpose of constructing
10 roads into and within areas of the state rich in mineral resources.

11 Sec. 3. COMMISSIONER OF MINES: APPROVAL OF ROAD CONSTRUC-
12 TION. No roads shall be constructed under the provisions of this
13 Act except those to areas and along routes approved by the Com-
14 missioner of Mines, or his successor. The Commissioner shall give
15 first priority for such roads to those areas reasonably believed
16 to contain mineral resources of commercial importance.

17 Sec. 4. TYPE OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION: CAPITAL STRUCTURES FOR-
18 BIDDEN. The Highway and Public Works Department, or its successor
19 in carrying out the road construction authorized by this Act,
20 shall (a) furnish all necessary engineering service, (b) utilize
21 the cheapest methods of construction consistent with the purpose
22 of this Act, and (c) construct low standard roads not necessarily
23 suitable for all weather use. In such construction, the Depart-
24 ment shall not construct any permanent capital structures other
25 than the access roads themselves, except such structures as are,
26 in the opinion of the Department, essential to providing road
27 access to mineral areas; nor shall any moneys appropriated as
28 authorized herein be expended for capital equipment.

29 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act shall take effect

1 immediately upon its passage and approval or upon its becoming law
2 without such approval.

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