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IN THE HOUSE

BY MRS. FISCHER

HOUSE BILL NO. 302

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

A BILL

For an Act entitled: "An Act authorizing the Department of Public Works to construct roads to inaccessible areas most suitable for homesteading."

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

Section 1. FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSE. The legislature finds that many of the areas within the state most suitable for homesteading are inaccessible because of the lack of roads therein; that this inaccessibility of areas most suitable for homesteading prohibits the successful use of these areas for homesteading; that the construction of roads into such areas will increase homesteading, thereby contributing greatly to the growth and development of the state; that the relatively high cost of constructing such roads prevents private persons from undertaking the homesteading of such areas; that the cost to the state of constructing such roads would many times over be repaid by the increased revenues arising out of the resulting growth and development; that the failure to so develop the many inaccessible areas within the state that are most suitable for homesteading is detrimental to the welfare and well-being of the people of Alaska by depriving them of the benefits to the economy of the state to be derived from the utilization of the vast quantities of the state's undeveloped land which cannot be used because of the lack of access thereto.

It is declared to be the purpose of this Act to facilitate

1 the utilization of the lands of this state by authorizing the
2 expenditure of funds to construct roads into and within areas
3 suitable for homesteading which are presently inaccessible.

4 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION AUTHORIZED. An annual appropriation
5 to the Department of Public Works for the purpose of constructing
6 roads into and within areas of the state suitable for homesteading
7 may be appropriated in the general appropriations act or in such
8 other acts as may be necessary.

9 Sec. 3. COMMISSIONER OF NATURAL RESOURCES: APPROVAL OF ROAD
10 CONSTRUCTION. No roads may be constructed under the provisions of
11 this Act except those to areas and along routes approved by the
12 commissioner of natural resources or his designee. The commis-
13 sioner or his designee shall give first priority for such roads
14 to those areas reasonably believed to be most suitable for home-
15 steading on a commercial basis.

16 Sec. 4. TYPE OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION: CAPITAL STRUCTURES FOR-
17 BIDDEN. The Department of Public Works, in carrying out the road
18 construction authorized by this Act, shall (1) furnish all neces-
19 sary engineering service, (2) utilize the cheapest methods of con-
20 struction consistent with the purpose of this Act, and (3) con-
21 struct low standard roads not necessarily suitable for all weather
22 use. In such construction, the department may not construct any
23 permanent capital structures other than the access roads them-
24 selves, except such structures as are, in the opinion of the
25 department, essential to providing road access to homestead areas;
26 nor may any moneys appropriated as authorized herein be expended
27 for capital equipment.

28 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect on the day
29 after its passage and approval or on the day it becomes law with-

1 out such approval.
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