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IN THE HOUSE BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 341
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION
A BILL

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the functions of economic and tourist development; transferring such functions to the Department of Commerce; setting out the responsibilities of the commissioner of commerce; amending Secs. 14 and 16, Ch. 64, SLA 1959; repealing Ch. 122, SLA 1959; and providing for an effective date."

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

Section 1. The purpose and intent of this Act is to promote the basic economic development of Alaska, including the promotion of the tourist industry of the state.

Sec. 2. The commissioner of commerce is hereby authorized, in addition to his functions as otherwise provided by law, to perform the following powers and duties:

(1) To formulate a continuing program for basic economic development, and for necessary promotion, planning and research, which will advance the economic development of the state, and to issue annual public reports on the status of the program;

(2) To take all necessary action, with the approval of the governor, to achieve a balanced program for the economic development of the state as a whole, and in carrying out this duty to call upon all departments and agencies of the state government for assistance and information;

1 (3) To facilitate inter-departmental cooperation in the
2 execution of development programs and in the conduct of economic
3 research, statistical services, and the dissemination of informa-
4 tion;

5 (4) To review the work and annual reports of other
6 departments and agencies of the executive branch as they may be
7 related to the economic development of the state, and to prepare
8 as a result of such review an integrated annual report on the long
9 range economic development program, which shall be submitted to
10 the governor for incorporation into his report to the legislature;

11 (5) To make surveys of the economic potential of the
12 state and its various development possibilities, and to assemble,
13 analyze, evaluate, and disseminate the data and findings obtained;

14 (6) To cooperate with the University of Alaska and other
15 appropriate public and private institutions in research and in-
16 vestigations;

17 (7) To enter into such contracts and cooperative agree-
18 ments as may facilitate the purpose of this Act;

19 (8) To apply for and accept from the federal government,
20 its agencies, or other public or private sources, gifts, grants,
21 or other aids as may facilitate the purpose of this Act, which may
22 be used subject to any reasonable limitations imposed by the
23 grantors;

24 (9) To make continuing study of federal and state laws
25 and activities which relate to state economic development, and to
26 recommend suitable legislation to the governor;

27 (10) To assist local government units in planning and
28 development programs;

29 (11) To enter into authorized interstate compacts;

1 (12) To promote and develop the Alaska tourist industry
2 by publicizing the state's tourist attractions through display
3 advertising in magazines and newspapers of Alaska, the United
4 States and Canada, the printing of pamphlets and other graphic and
5 pictorial publicity;

6 (13) To further promote and develop the Alaska tourist
7 industry through participation in travel shows, through the design
8 and publication of materials used to answer inquiries concerning
9 Alaska and its attractions, and through surveys of existing
10 tourist facilities and suggestions for their improvement;

11 (14) To stimulate the interest of the citizens of
12 Alaska in the size and economic importance of the tourist industry
13 and to encourage in-state travel;

14 (15) To study the effect of tourist promotion on state-
15 wide industrial development;

16 (16) To make necessary rules and regulations to carry
17 out the purposes of this Act;

18 (17) To do all other acts necessary or proper to carry
19 out the provisions of this Act.

20 Sec. 3. The commissioner of commerce is hereby authorized,
21 with the approval of the governor, to establish within the Depart-
22 ment of Commerce such divisions or other administrative units as
23 may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.

24 Sec. 4. The commissioner of commerce is hereby specifically
25 authorized, with the approval of the governor, to call upon the
26 commissioners of natural resources, public works, labor and fish
27 and game for all needed assistance and cooperation in carrying out
28 the purposes of this Act. In addition the resources of any plan-
29 ning division established in the office of the governor shall be

1 available to the commissioner of commerce for purposes of carrying
2 out the provisions of this Act.

3 Sec. 5. All records, equipment and other property of the
4 division of economic development and tourism as established in the
5 Department of Natural Resources pursuant to Ch. 122, SLA 1959 is
6 hereby transferred to the Department of Commerce.

7 Sec. 6. Sec. 14, Ch. 64, SLA 1959 is amended to read as
8 follows:

9 Sec. 14. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. There shall be a
10 principal executive officer of the Department of Commerce to
11 be known as the Commissioner of Commerce.

12 The Department of Commerce is hereby vested with the
13 duties, powers and responsibilities involved in the adminis-
14 tration of the state programs relating to commerce and in the
15 enforcement of laws relating thereto, including the promulga-
16 tion of rules and regulations under such laws; the accumula-
17 tion, analysis, and reporting of commercial and industrial
18 statistics; and the enforcement of state laws regulating pub-
19 lic utilities and other public service enterprises, banking
20 and securities, insurance, and other businesses and enter-
21 prises touched with a public interest; and the promotion of
22 the economic and tourist development of the state. The Depart-
23 ment is also hereby vested with the duties, powers and respon-
24 sibilities involved in making veterans' loans; the inspection
25 of weights and measures; the promotion and development of
26 civil aviation; and the furnishing of the budgeting, clerical
27 and administrative services for regulatory agencies and pro-
28 fessional and occupational licensing boards not otherwise pro-
29 vided for in this Act. The functions and authority heretofore

1 performed and exercised by the Alaska World War II Veterans'
2 Board, the Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs, and the Veter-
3 ans' Service Council; the Alaska Housing Authority; the
4 Weights and Measures Division of the Department of Territorial
5 Police, the Inspector of Weights and Measures; the Alaska
6 Insurance Commission and the Commissioner of Insurance; the
7 Territorial Banking Board; the Alaska Real Estate Commission;
8 and the Board of Administration with respect to industrial
9 tax incentives are hereby transferred to the Department of
10 Commerce.

11 There is hereby created within the Department of Com-
12 merce an Alaska State Housing Authority consisting of three
13 members appointed for overlapping three-year terms; and the
14 corporate status heretofore vested in the Alaska Housing
15 Authority together with all its rights, duties, powers,
16 functions, assets, liabilities, debts and claims is hereby
17 transferred to the Alaska State Housing Authority.

18 Sec. 7. Sec. 16, Ch. 64, SLA 1959 is amended to read as
19 follows:

20 Sec. 16. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES. There shall
21 be a principal executive officer to be known as the Commis-
22 sioner of Natural Resources.

23 The Department of Natural Resources is hereby vested with
24 the duties, powers, and responsibilities involved in the ad-
25 ministration of the entire state program for the conservation
26 and development of the State's natural resources including
27 [TOURISM,] forests, parks and recreational areas, lands,
28 waters, agriculture, soil conservation and minerals including
29 petroleum and natural gas; but excluding commercial fisheries,

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sport fish, game, and fur-bearing animals in their natural state. The functions and authority heretofore performed and exercised by the Department of Lands, the Land Board, and the Director of Lands; by the Department of Mines, the Commissioner of Mines, the Coal Miners' Examining Board, and the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission; [AND BY THE ALASKA RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND ITS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR;] the Soil Conservation Board, by the Department of Agriculture, and by the Commissioner of Agriculture, except those relating to public health, are hereby transferred to the Department of Natural Resources.

Sec. 8. Ch. 122, SLA 1959 is repealed.

Sec. 9. This Act takes effect on the day after its passage and approval or on the day it becomes law without such approval.