

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 341

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the functions of  
7 economic and tourist development; transfer-  
8 ring such functions to the Department of  
9 Commerce; setting out the responsibilities  
10 of the commissioner of commerce; amending  
11 Secs. 14 and 16, Ch. 64, SLA 1959; repealing  
12 Ch. 122, SLA 1959; and providing for an  
13 effective date."

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

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

18 Sec. 2. The commissioner of commerce is hereby authorized,  
19 in addition to his functions as otherwise provided by law, to per-  
20 form the following powers and duties:

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

25 (2) To take all necessary action, with the approval of  
26 the governor, to achieve a balanced program for the economic  
27 development of the state as a whole, and in carrying out this duty  
28 to call upon all departments and agencies of the state government  
29 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, and all appro-  
7 priations and appropriation balances made to such division for the  
8 fiscal years beginning July 1, 1960 and July 1, 1961 are also  
9 hereby transferred to the Department of Commerce.

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

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

15 The Department of Commerce is hereby vested with the  
16 duties, powers and responsibilities involved in the adminis-  
17 tration of the state programs relating to commerce and in the  
18 enforcement of laws relating thereto, including the promulga-  
19 tion of rules and regulations under such laws; the accumula-  
20 tion, analysis, and reporting of commercial and industrial  
21 statistics; and the enforcement of state laws regulating pub-  
22 lic utilities and other public service enterprises, banking  
23 and securities, insurance, and other businesses and enter-  
24 prises touched with a public interest; and the promotion of  
25 the economic and tourist development of the state. The Depart-  
26 ment is also hereby vested with the duties, powers and respon-  
27 sibilities involved in making veterans' loans; the inspection  
28 of weights and measures; the promotion and development of  
29 civil aviation; and the furnishing of the budgeting, clerical

1 and administrative services for regulatory agencies and pro-  
2 fessional and occupational licensing boards not otherwise pro-  
3 vided for in this Act. The functions and authority heretofore  
4 performed and exercised by the Alaska World War II Veterans'  
5 Board, the Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs, and the Veterans'  
6 Service Council; the Alaska Housing Authority; the Weights  
7 and Measures Division of the Department of Territorial Police,  
8 the Inspector of Weights and Measures; the Alaska Insurance  
9 Commission and the Commissioner of Insurance; the Territorial  
10 Banking Board; the Alaska Real Estate Commission; and the  
11 Board of Administration with respect to industrial tax  
12 incentives are hereby transferred to the Department of Commerce.

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

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

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

25 The Department of Natural Resources is hereby vested with  
26 the duties, powers, and responsibilities involved in the ad-  
27 ministration of the entire state program for the conservation  
28 and development of the State's natural resources including  
29 [TOURISM,] forests, parks and recreational areas, lands,

1 waters, agriculture, soil conservation and minerals including  
2 petroleum and natural gas; but excluding commercial fisheries,  
3 sport fish, game, and fur-bearing animals in their natural  
4 state. The functions and authority heretofore performed and  
5 exercised by the Department of Lands, the Land Board, and the  
6 Director of Lands; by the Department of Mines, the Commis-  
7 sioner of Mines, the Coal Miners' Examining Board, and the  
8 Oil and Gas Conservation Commission; [AND BY THE ALASKA  
9 RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND ITS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR;] the  
10 Soil Conservation Board, by the Department of Agriculture,  
11 and by the Commissioner of Agriculture, except those relating  
12 to public health, are hereby transferred to the Department of  
13 Natural Resources.

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

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