

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
PIONEER ACCESS ROADS

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 366

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 construction or
7 repair of pioneering access roads by the
8 Department of Public Works; amending Secs.
9 1, 2, 3, and 4, Ch. 47, SLA 1959; and
10 providing for an effective date."

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

12 Section 1. Sec. 1, Ch. 47, SLA 1959 is amended to read as
13 follows:

14 Section 1. FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSE. The
15 legislature hereby finds that many of the areas within the
16 state [MOST] rich in natural [MINERAL] resources are inaccess-
17 sible because of the lack of roads therein; that this
18 inaccessibility [INACCESSIBILITY] of areas of great potential
19 [MINERAL] value prohibits the successful use [EXTRACTION] of
20 such natural resources [MINERALS]; that the construction,
21 relocation, or repair of roads into such areas will increase
22 resource development [MINERAL PROSPECTING], thereby bringing
23 even more natural resources [MINERALS] into commercial use
24 [PRODUCTION]; that the relatively high cost of constructing,
25 relocating, or repairing such roads prevents private interests
26 from undertaking the development of such areas; that the
27 cost to the state of constructing, relocating or repairing
28 such roads would many times over be repaid by the increased
29 revenues arising out of the resulting development and use

1 of the natural resources [MINING INDUSTRY]; that the failure
2 to so develop the many inaccessible areas within the state
3 that are rich in natural [MINERAL] resources is detrimental
4 to the welfare and well-being of the people of Alaska by
5 depriving them of the benefits to the economy of the state to
6 be derived from the commercial utilization of vast quantities
7 of minerals, agricultural lands, forests, waters, and recrea-
8 tion sites which cannot be utilized [EXTRACTED] because of
9 the lack of access roads thereto.

10 It is hereby declared to be the purpose of this Act to
11 facilitate the commercial utilization of the natural resources
12 of this state by authorizing the expenditure of funds to con-
13 struct, relocate, or repair pioneering access roads into and
14 within areas rich in natural [MINERAL] resources or to mining
15 prospects of commercial promise which are [PRESENTLY]
16 inaccessible to truck haulage. The pioneering access roads
17 authorized by this Act are envisaged as being essentially low
18 standard, rudimentary truck roads, not usually fit for
19 passenger automobile use and not necessarily subject to
20 repair, upkeep, or seasonal maintenance.

21 Sec. 2. Sec. 2, Ch. 47, SLA 1959 is amended to read as
22 follows:

23 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION AUTHORIZED. There is hereby
24 authorized an annual appropriation to the Department of Public
25 Works [HIGHWAY AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT], or its successor,
26 for the purposes of this Act [CONSTRUCTING ROADS INTO AND
27 WITHIN AREAS OF THE STATE RICH IN MINERAL RESOURCES].

28 Sec. 3. Sec. 3, Ch. 47, SLA 1959 is amended to read as
29 follows:

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1 Sec. 3. COMMISSIONER OF NATURAL RESOURCES [MINES]:
2 APPROVAL OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION. No pioneering access roads
3 may [SHALL] be constructed, relocated, or repaired under the
4 provisions of this Act except those to areas [AND ALONG
5 ROUTES] approved by the commissioner of natural resources
6 [COMMISSIONER OF MINES], or his successor. Requests for the
7 construction, relocation, or repair of pioneering access
8 roads shall be directed to the commissioner of public works.
9 Each request shall be reviewed by the commissioner of public
10 works for general feasibility. The commissioner of public
11 works shall refer it to the commissioner of natural resources
12 for a determination of its priority. After establishing
13 priorities the commissioner of natural resources shall return
14 requests to the commissioner of public works for action.
15 [THE COMMISSIONER SHALL GIVE FIRST PRIORITY FOR SUCH ROADS
16 TO THOSE AREAS REASONABLY BELIEVED TO CONTAIN MINERAL
17 RESOURCES OF COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE.]

18 Sec. 4. Sec. 4, Ch. 47, SLA 1959 is amended to read as
19 follows:

20 Sec. 4. TYPE OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION: CAPITAL STRUCTURES
21 FORBIDDEN. The Department of Public Works [HIGHWAY AND PUBLI
22 WORKS DEPARTMENT], or its successor, in carrying out the road
23 work [CONSTRUCTION] authorized by this Act, shall (a) furnish
24 all necessary engineering service, (b) utilize the cheapest
25 methods of construction consistent with the purpose of this
26 Act, and (c) construct low standard roads not necessarily
27 suitable for all weather use. The state shall not be
28 obligated to maintain pioneering access roads. In such road
29 work [CONSTRUCTION], the Department shall not construct any

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permanent capital structures other than the pioneering access roads themselves, except such structures as are, in the opinion of the Department, essential to providing road access to natural resource [MINERAL] areas [; NOR SHALL ANY MONEYS APPROPRIATED AS AUTHORIZED HEREIN BE EXPENDED FOR CAPITAL EQUIPMENT].

Sec. 5. This Act takes effect on the day after its passage and approval or on the day it becomes law without such approval.