

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2 SENATE BILL NO73:

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act creating an Alaska Legislative
7 Council and prescribing its powers, duties
8 and functions; repealing Ch. 69, SLA 1953
9 as amended by Ch. 74 SLA 1955 and Ch. 140
10 SLA 1957; and providing for an effective
11 date."

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

13 Section 1. There is hereby created an Alaska Legislative
14 Council as a permanent interim committee and agency of the legis-
15 lature.

16 Sec. 2. MEMBERSHIP. The legislative council shall consist
17 of the president of the senate and four other senators appointed
18 by him, one from each of the four major election districts of the
19 state, and the speaker of the house of representatives and four
20 other representatives appointed by him, one from each of the four
21 major election districts of the state. Whenever possible, the
22 membership of the council shall include representation from each of
23 the two major political parties.

24 Sec. 3. TERM. Members shall serve for the duration of the
25 legislature during which they are appointed and if they are re-
26 elected to or their term of office extends into the next succeed-
27 ing legislature, shall continue to serve until reappointed or
28 their successors are appointed.

29 Sec. 4. VACANCIES. When any vacancy exists in the member-

1 ship of the council, the president of the senate shall appoint
2 some other member of the senate to fill such vacancy if the person
3 previously filling such position was a senator, and the speaker of
4 the house shall appoint some other member of the house of repres-
5 entatives to fill such vacancy if the person previously filling
6 such position was a member of the house of representatives; pro-
7 vided, that if the office of president of the senate or the office
8 of speaker of the house is vacated, the members of the council
9 from the house in which a vacancy occurs shall fill such vacancy,
10 through selection by a majority vote, of a legislator from the
11 same district and political party which incurred the vacancy, if
12 possible.

13 Sec. 5. DUTIES. It shall be the duty of the council to
14 collect and analyze information concerning the government and
15 general welfare of the state, examine the effect of previously
16 enacted statutes, consider important issues of public policy and
17 questions of state-wide interest, and prepare such legislative
18 program and materials as in its opinion the welfare of the state
19 may require. The council shall assist any legislator or legis-
20 lator-elect, upon his written request, by collecting information,
21 making studies and recommendations, and drafting bills.

22 Sec. 6. POWERS. The legislative council shall have the fol-
23 lowing powers and functions:

24 (1) To organize and adopt rules for the conduct of its
25 business;

26 (2) To hire, from outside the membership of the council,
27 an executive director in charge of research, and establish his
28 salary;

29 (3) To hold public hearings on subjects under examination;

1 (4) To exercise control over all legislative space,
2 equipment and supplies between legislative sessions;

3 (5) To maintain and operate a state legislative refer-
4 ence library for the use of the legislature and accessible to all
5 state agencies;

6 (6) To produce, publish, distribute and contract for
7 the printing of such reports, memoranda, legislative aids, and
8 other materials as it may direct or which may be directed by the
9 legislature;

10 (7) And, to incur such other expenses through contract
11 or otherwise and do whatever else it may deem necessary or advis-
12 able to carry out the purposes of this Act.

13 Sec. 7. POWERS: HEARINGS. The council shall have the author-
14 ity to administer oaths, issue subpoenas, compel the attendance of
15 witnesses and the production of any papers, books, accounts, docu-
16 ments, and testimony, and to cause the deposition of witnesses to
17 be taken in the manner prescribed by law for taking depositions in
18 civil actions. In case of disobedience or the refusal on the part
19 of any person to comply with any subpoena issued on behalf of the
20 council, or on the refusal of any witness to testify to any matters
21 regarding which he may be lawfully interrogated, it shall be the
22 duty of the superior court, or of the judge thereof, on applica-
23 tion of the council, to compel obedience by proceedings for con-
24 tempt, in the same manner as in the case of disobedience of the
25 requirements of a subpoena issued from such court or a refusal to
26 testify therein. Each witness who appears before the legislative
27 council by its order, other than an officer or employee of the
28 State of Alaska, shall receive for his attendance the fees and
29 mileage provided for witnesses in civil cases in courts of record,

1 which shall be audited and paid upon the presentation of proper
2 vouchers sworn to by such witnesses and approved by the chairman
3 of the council.

4 Sec. 8. COOPERATION OF OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES.. All officials,
5 agencies and institutions of the state government shall give full
6 cooperation to the council and its executive director in the ful-
7 fillment of their duties, by collecting and furnishing information,
8 conducting studies and making recommendations. Specifically, the
9 facilities of the legislative chambers and rooms and the services
10 of the faculty, volunteer students and facilities of the University
11 of Alaska may be made available to the council and its executive
12 director.

13 Sec. 9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF. The executive direct-
14 or of the council shall serve as the chief of research and ad-
15 ministrative officer at the direction and pleasure of the council.
16 The executive director, with the approval of the council, is
17 authorized to employ and determine the compensation of the pro-
18 fessional and clerical staffs of the council. At the direction of
19 council and subject to subsequent approval by the legislature when
20 it convenes, the executive director may employ, within sixty days
21 of the convening of a legislative session, additional professional
22 and clerical staff not to exceed five persons, for the purpose of
23 preparing the legislative program and making other arrangements to
24 facilitate the legislative process prior to and during any regular
25 session.

26 Sec. 10. MEETINGS: QUORUM. The council shall meet immed-
27 iately upon the appointment of three-fourths of its members for
28 the purpose of organizing and fixing a time for its next meeting.
29 The council may meet at any time and at any place within the state.

1 Meetings may be called upon the written petition of two members
2 of the council or upon the call of its chairman. No meeting shall
3 exceed ten days duration. A simple majority of the membership
4 shall constitute a quorum to do business. Full and complete min-
5 utes shall be kept of every meeting and shall be made part of the
6 final summary report of the council which shall be prepared for
7 submission to the membership of the legislature at the first reg-
8 ular session of a legislature.

9 Sec. 11. INTERIM LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY. Between regular ses-
10 sions of the legislature, the legislative fiscal officer shall
11 work on a half-time basis at the direction of the council in main-
12 taining member payrolls, ordering and inventorying legislative
13 property and supplies, and performing such other interim duties
14 necessary to the continuity of the legislative process and the or-
15 derly preparation for the convening of any regular or special
16 session.

17 Sec. 12. EXPENSES OF MEMBERS AND STAFF. Members of the
18 council shall, for time spent at meetings while the legislature is
19 not in session, be entitled to receive transportation and per diem
20 at the same rates provided for members of the legislature when in
21 actual session assembled. The executive director and members of
22 staff attending meetings other than at the capital shall be en-
23 titled to receive the transportation and per diem allowances author-
24 ized for other state employees.

25 Sec. 13. APPROPRIATIONS. Funds for carrying out the provi-
26 sions of this Act shall be set forth in the general appropriation
27 bill or such other bills as may be necessary. If the appropriations
28 made to the council are in line-item amounts, the council is au-
29 thorized to direct the executive director to transfer amounts from

1 one-line item appropriation to another if such transfer is deemed
2 necessary to carry out the duties and functions of the council as
3 prescribed by law; provided, that in no event shall the total
4 amount of the council appropriation be exceeded. There shall be
5 an annual audit of all expenditures of the council.

6 Sec. 14. INTERSTATE COOPERATION. It shall be a function of
7 the legislative council to:

8 (1) Carry forward the participation of the State of
9 Alaska as a member of the Council of State Governments, and the
10 legislative council is hereby designated as the Alaska Commission
11 on Interstate Cooperation;

12 (2) Encourage and assist the government of this state
13 to develop and maintain friendly contact by correspondence, by
14 conference, and otherwise, with the other states, with the federal
15 government, and with local units of government;

16 (3) Establish such delegations and committees as may
17 be deemed advisable to confer with similar delegations and commit-
18 tees from other states concerning problems of mutual interest. The
19 membership of such delegations and committees may consist of leg-
20 islators and employees of the state other than members of the
21 legislative council. Members of such delegations and committees
22 shall serve without pay, but they may be reimbursed for expenses
23 as provided by law;

24 (4) Endeavor to advance cooperation between this state
25 and other units of government whenever it seems advisable to do so
26 by formulating proposals for interstate compacts and reciprocal or
27 uniform legislation, and by facilitating the adoption of uniform
28 or reciprocal administrative rules and regulations, informal co-
29 operation of governmental offices personal cooperation among

1 governmental officials and employees, interchange and clearance of
2 research and information, and any other suitable process.

3 In order to facilitate such cooperation, the Council of State
4 Governments is hereby declared to be a joint governmental agency
5 of this state and of the other states which cooperate through it.

6 Sec. 15. Ch. 69 SLA 1953 as amended by Ch. 74, SLA 1955 and
7 Ch. 140, SLA 1957, is hereby repealed.

8 Sec. 16. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act shall take effect immed-
9 lately upon its passage and approval or upon its becoming law with-
10 out such approval.

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