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IN THE SENATE BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SENATE BILL NO. 136

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

A BILL

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the Alaska Legislative Council; repealing Ch. 177, SLA 1957, and Ch. 69, SLA 1953, as amended by Ch. 74, SLA 1955 and Ch. 140, SLA 1957; and providing for an effective date."

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

Section 1. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ESTABLISHED. The Alaska Legislative Council is established as a permanent interim committee and service agency of the legislature.

Sec. 2. MEMBERSHIP. The legislative council is composed of the president of the senate and four other senators appointed by him, and the speaker of the house of representatives and four other representatives appointed by him. The appointing authority in each house shall appoint at least one member from each of the senate districts, A, E, J and N as described in Section 2, Article XIV of the state constitution, and at least one member from each of the two major political parties. The appointing authority of each house shall make and announce the appointment or reappointment of members of the council within thirty days after the convening of the first regular session of each legislature.

Sec. 3. MEMBERSHIP. Members serve for the duration of the legislature during which they are appointed and, if they are re-elected to or their term of office extends into the next

1 succeeding legislature, continue to serve until reappointed or  
2 their successors are appointed.

3       Sec. 4. VACANCIES. When a vacancy occurs in the appointive  
4 membership of the council the presiding officer of the house  
5 incurring the vacancy shall fill the vacancy within 30 days. If  
6 the office of the president of the senate or speaker of the house  
7 of representatives becomes vacant and a vacancy occurs among  
8 the appointed members of the council, the remaining council mem-  
9 bers from the house incurring the vacancy shall appoint a new  
10 member. Legislators appointed to fill vacancies shall represent  
11 the same senate-at-large district and be a member of the same  
12 political party as the member vacating the seat, when possible.

13       Sec. 5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF. The council hires  
14 an executive director and determines his salary. The executive  
15 director shall serve as the executive officer of the council in  
16 the accomplishment of its functions. He serves at the direction  
17 and at the pleasure of the council. He is authorized to employ  
18 and determine the compensation of the members of the professional  
19 and clerical staffs of the agency within the limitation of the  
20 budget approved by the council. The executive director and  
21 the members of the professional staff shall maintain the in-  
22 tegrity of the council's functions and services on the behalf  
23 of the legislative branch by refraining from joining or support-  
24 ing any partisan political organization, faction or activity  
25 which would tend to undermine the essential non-partisan nature  
26 of their functions and services. However, this section does not  
27 restrict the executive director or members of the professional  
28 staff from expressing private opinion, registering or voting.

29       Sec. 6. POWERS. The legislative council shall have the  
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1 following powers:

2 (1) To organize and adopt rules for the conduct of its  
3 business;

4 (2) To hold public hearings, administer oaths, issue  
5 subpoenas, compel the attendance of witnesses and production of  
6 any papers, books, accounts, documents, and testimony, and to  
7 cause the deposition of witnesses to be taken in a manner pre-  
8 scribed by court rule or law for taking depositions in civil  
9 actions;

10 (3) To call upon all state officials, agencies and  
11 institutions to give full cooperation to the council and its  
12 executive director by collecting and furnishing information, con-  
13 ducting studies and making recommendations;

14 (4) To maintain and operate the state legislative  
15 reference library for the use of the legislature and other state  
16 agencies;

17 (5) To exercise control and direction over all legis-  
18 lative space, supplies, and equipment and permanent legislative  
19 help between legislative sessions;

20 (6) To produce, publish, distribute and to contract  
21 for the printing of such reports, memoranda and other materials  
22 it finds necessary to the accomplishment of its work; and

23 (7) To take appropriate action for the pre-convening  
24 and post-session work of each legislative session including the  
25 employment one week in advance of each session of not more than  
26 10 temporary legislative employees whose continuing employment  
27 shall be subject to legislative approval when the session con-  
28 venes.

29 Sec. 7. REVISION OF STATUTES. The council has the authority  
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1 to clarify, classify, arrange, renumber, coordinate, edit,  
2 correct, annotate, index, copyright, codify and revise all laws  
3 of the state. It may specify the format, size and style of type,  
4 paper stock, number of volumes, and method and quality of binding  
5 of any codification or revision; and may contract, within the  
6 limit of appropriations, for services necessary to the accomplish-  
7 ment of this work. Contracts for publication and distribution  
8 of any code or revision are to be accomplished by the Department  
9 of Administration in coordination with the council. The council  
10 is authorized to receive sufficient copies of any code or  
11 revision for its own work and for exchange for those of other  
12 states and jurisdictions. Any code or revision prepared by the  
13 council under authority of this Act is to be referred to the  
14 legislature for enactment or adoption.

15       Sec. 8. INTERSTATE COOPERATION. The council may encourage  
16 and arrange conferences with officials of other states and of  
17 other units of government; carry forward the participation of  
18 this state as a member of the Council of State Governments, and  
19 propose cooperation between this state and other states. It  
20 shall function as the Alaska Commission on Interstate Cooperation  
21 in carrying out the program of the Council of State Governments  
22 as it relates to Alaska.

23       Sec. 9. ASSIGNMENT OF PROJECTS. The council may be assign-  
24 ed projects or subjects for study, reporting, or drafting only  
25 by resolution. The council is authorized to determine a schedule  
26 of priorities for these and other assignments or requests based  
27 on feasibility, time and the availability of funds and staff.

28       Sec. 10. REQUESTS FOR SERVICE. Members of the legislature  
29 may utilize the research and bill drafting services of the

1 council staff and all requests are confidential. Staff services  
2 for members of the legislature are to be accomplished subject  
3 only to the priority of assignments determined by the council.

4 Sec. 11. MEETINGS. The legislative council may meet during  
5 sessions of the legislature and during intervals between sessions  
6 at such times and places within the state as the chairman may  
7 determine. The council shall meet immediately after the appoint-  
8 ment of its membership at the first regular session of each leg-  
9 islature for purposes of organization. Minutes of each meeting  
10 shall be kept. One half of the membership constitutes a quorum  
11 to do business. Members may receive, for the minimum time re-  
12 quired to get to and from meetings and while attending meetings,  
13 the same travel fare and per diem allowances provided by law  
14 for members of the legislature when attending sessions.

15 Sec. 12. REPORTS. The council shall submit a summary re-  
16 port of its findings and recommendations to each legislature.  
17 The council shall, from time to time, submit memorandum reports  
18 to the legislature on matters referred to it or otherwise coming  
19 before it. Bills supporting council recommendations may be  
20 filed or pre-filed in accordance with the uniform rules of the  
21 legislature. Reports released by the council are considered  
22 public and they may be made available at a reasonable cost.

23 Sec. 13. BUDGETS. The council shall submit a budget of  
24 its anticipated needs for each fiscal year to the finance com-  
25 mittees of the legislature. The executive director shall  
26 annually submit an estimated budget to the governor for informa-  
27 tion purposes in the preparation of the executive budget. The  
28 council staff shall also assist, as needed, in preparing a  
29 budget of the anticipated annual needs of the legislature.

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Sec. 14. APPROPRIATIONS. Appropriations for carrying out the provisions of this Act shall be set forth in the general appropriation bill or such other bills as may be necessary. The council is authorized to direct the executive director to transfer amounts from one appropriation to another if such transfer is deemed necessary to accomplish the work of the council; provided, that in no event shall the total amount of the authorized appropriation be exceeded. All expenditures of the council are subject to audit.

Sec. 15. REPEAL. Ch. 177, SLA 1957, and Ch. 69, SLA 1953, as amended by Ch. 74, SLA 1955 and Ch. 140, SLA 1957 are repealed.

Sec. 16. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its passage and approval or upon its becoming law without such approval.