

1 IN THE SENATE

BY RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 203

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

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For an Act entitled: "An Act to establish a Section of Power
7 Development within the Department of Commerce;
8 defining its authority and duties; and pro-
9 viding for an effective date."

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

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Section 1. FINDINGS AND AFFIRMATION OF PURPOSE. The Legis-
12 lature, recognizing that Alaska has vast hydroelectric and other
13 power resources whose early development is vital to its indus-
14 trialization, economic growth and general well being, and in view
15 of the unavailability of similar undeveloped resources elsewhere
16 in the United States to meet the ever increasing demands for
17 electric power and energy, that such development is likewise a
18 matter of national interest and security, hereby finds the expedi-
19 tious development of such resources to be of primary state interest.
20 The Legislature further ratifies and affirms the findings and
21 declaration of legislative purpose set forth in Sec. 1, Ch. 122,
22 SLA 1959.

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Sec. 2. SECTION OF POWER DEVELOPMENT; PURPOSES. There is
hereby created within the Department of Commerce, a Section of
Power Development hereafter referred to as the "section" for the
purpose of conserving, developing, and utilizing the water and
other electric power resources of Alaska, of making an abundant
supply of electric power and energy available to the people of
Alaska at the lowest possible rates compatible with sound business

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1 principles, and of promoting and extending the use of electric
2 power and energy in Alaska for industrial, agricultural, commercial,
3 residential, and other purposes.

4 Sec. 3. DUTIES. It shall be the duty of the section:

5 (1) To study Alaska's water, fossil fuel, and other
6 power resources and to collect and disseminate information relating
7 thereto.

8 (2) To compile and maintain a complete and current
9 inventory of electric generation, transmission, and distribution
10 facilities in Alaska insofar as such facilities are utilized to
11 furnish central station electric service, but including all other
12 such facilities which may, in the opinion of the section, sig-
13 nificantly influence or affect the development of electric power
14 resources or the use or need for existing or additional electric
15 power facilities.

16 (3) To study existing and potential uses and markets
17 for electric power and energy and to promote and otherwise encour-
18 age such use and the development of major markets therefor.

19 (4) To prepare, after public hearings and reasonable
20 consultation with government and other agencies and associations
21 having a primary interest therein, a plan for the orderly develop-
22 ment of Alaska's power resources, which plan shall be amended,
23 revised and expanded as may be necessary to reflect changing
24 conditions and requirements.

25 (5) To promote and otherwise foster the assimilation
26 of accurate information concerning Alaska's power resources through
27 expanded federal programs for stream gauging and other detailed
28 studies.

29 (6) To coordinate and otherwise represent the state's

1 interest in securing full federal participation in the development
2 and financing of large-scale, low-cost power projects through the
3 construction of multiple-purpose dams, fossil fuel and nuclear
4 power plants, or otherwise, and the construction and installation
5 of inter-tie and other transmission facilities essential to such
6 projects.

7 (7) To promote and otherwise encourage rural electri-
8 fication and the extension of central station electric service in
9 Alaska.

10 (8) To assist communities, associations, and others to
11 furnish or improve central station electric service by collecting
12 and otherwise providing information concerning technical or other
13 assistance which may be available from federal, state, or other
14 sources for such purpose and by establishing and maintaining a
15 clearing house of information concerning essential materials and
16 equipment available in Alaska and elsewhere.

17 (9) To encourage and assist in the creation of power
18 grids and power pools to facilitate the efficient utilization of
19 generation facilities.

20 (10) To cooperate with federal, state, and local agencies
21 and associations interested in the generation, transmission and
22 distribution of electric power and energy, or in the use thereof,
23 or in the economic and social development of Alaska, including,
24 but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Bureau
25 of Reclamation, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Rural
26 Electrification Administration, Alaska Rural Electric Co-operative
27 Association, Alaska Chamber of Commerce, the League of Alaskan
28 Cities, and the Alaska State Federation of Labor.

29 (11) To hold hearings throughout the state for the

1 purposes of determining public need in the field of power.

2 In the discharge of the foregoing duties, the section shall
3 cooperate with all federal and state agencies responsible for the
4 conservation, propagation, and development of other natural
5 resources of the state.

6 Sec. 4. STUDY OF LAWS AND PRACTICES; REPORT TO GOVERNOR AND
7 LEGISLATURE. In addition to all other powers and duties conferred
8 upon the section by this Act, the section shall make a careful
9 study of all laws with the administration of which it is charged
10 and of the practices of state power authorities and similar agencies
11 elsewhere and make a special written report thereon, including
12 recommendations for such further legislative action as it may deem
13 necessary in the public interest. More specifically, such report
14 shall include recommendations with respect to the state's need
15 for a corporate arm with the authority to construct and otherwise
16 acquire, operate, and maintain electric generation, transmission,
17 and distribution facilities, and to produce and otherwise acquire,
18 transmit, distribute, furnish, and sell electric power and energy
19 and other incidental services, commodities, and facilities, and
20 the ways and means of financing such activities. The study and
21 report shall further include the terms and conditions under which
22 the section on a proposed corporate arm of the state may borrow
23 funds from the Rural Electrification Administration for the
24 purpose of furnishing and assisting others to furnish central
25 station electric service to Alaska communities and other rural
26 areas. Such report shall be delivered to the governor not less
27 than 10 days prior to the opening of the first session of the
28 Second Legislature and to the president of the Senate and speaker
29 of the House of Representatives not less than five days after the
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1 opening of such session.

2 Sec. 5. PROVISIO. Nothing in this Act prevents the governor
3 or the commissioner of commerce from integrating the Section of
4 Power Development into a different organizational pattern, nor
5 authorize duplicating engineering, research or similar activities
6 conducted by other departments of the state.

7 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect on the day
8 after its passage and approval or on the day it becomes law without
9 such approval.

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