

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 386

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the construction of the
7 law of the state."

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

9 Section 1. APPLICABILITY OF ACT. The provisions of this Act
10 shall be observed in the construction of the laws of the state
11 unless such construction would be inconsistent with the manifest
12 intent of the legislature.

13 Sec. 2. WORDS AND PHRASES. Words and phrases shall be con-
14 strued according to the rules of grammar and according to their
15 common and approved usage. Technical words and phrases and those
16 which have acquired a peculiar and appropriate meaning, whether
17 by legislative definition or otherwise, shall be construed
18 according to such peculiar and appropriate meaning.

19 Sec. 3. WORDS OF TENSE, NUMBER, AND GENDER. a. Words in
20 the present tense include the past and future tenses, and words
21 in the future tense include the present tense.

22 b. Words in the singular number include the plural, and
23 words in the plural number include the singular.

24 c. Words of the masculine gender include the feminine and
25 the neuter.

26 Sec. 4. DEFINITIONS. In the laws of the state, unless the
27 context otherwise requires:

28 (1) "action" includes any matter or proceeding in a
29 court, civil or criminal;

HB #386

-1-

- 1 (2) "daytime" means the period between sunrise and
2 sunset;
- 3 (3) "month" means a calendar month unless otherwise
4 expressed;
- 5 (4) "nighttime" means the period between sunset and
6 sunrise;
- 7 (5) "oath" includes affirmation or declaration;
- 8 (6) "peace officer" means any officer of the state
9 police, members of the police force of any incorporated city or
10 borough, United States marshals and their deputies, and other
11 officers whose duty it is to enforce and preserve the public peace
- 12 (7) "person" includes a corporation, company, partner-
13 ship, firm, association, organization, business trust, or society,
14 as well as a natural person;
- 15 (8) "personal property" includes money, goods, chattels,
16 things in action, and evidences of debt;
- 17 (9) "property" includes real and personal property;
- 18 (10) "real property" is coextensive with land, tene-
19 ments, and hereditaments;
- 20 (11) "registered mail" includes certified mail;
- 21 (12) "signature" or "subscription" includes mark when
22 the person cannot write, with his name written near the mark by a
23 witness who writes his own name near the person's name; but a
24 signature or subscription by mark can be acknowledged or can serve
25 as a signature or subscription to a sworn statement only when two
26 witnesses so sign their own names thereto;
- 27 (13) "state" means the State of Alaska unless applied
28 to the different parts of the United States and in the latter case
29 it includes the District of Columbia and the territories;

1 (14) "writing" includes printing.

2 Sec. 5. TIME STATUTES TAKE EFFECT. a. An act or statute
3 which by its terms is to take effect on a specified day, unless
4 otherwise provided in the act or statute, takes effect at twelve
5 o'clock noon on the day specified.

6 b. An act or statute which by its terms is to take effect
7 from and after a specified day takes effect at midnight of the day
8 specified.

9 Sec. 6. COMPUTATION OF TIME. The time in which an act pro-
10 vided by law is required to be done is computed by excluding the
11 first day and including the last, unless the last day is a
12 holiday, and then it is also excluded.

13 Sec. 7. RETROSPECTIVE STATUTES. No statute is retrospective
14 unless expressly declared therein.

15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29