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BY SENATORS POLLOCK AND
VANCE PHILLIPS

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 79

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

A BILL

For an Act entitled: "An Act creating a state Department of
Highways; providing for its functions and
powers; and providing for an effective
date."

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

Section 1. DEPARTMENT CREATED: APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS.

There is hereby created as a principal department a Department of
Highways headed by a state Highway Commission composed of seven
commissioners appointed by the governor and subject to confirma-
tion by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint
session. The Commissioners serve at the pleasure of the governor
and are subject to recall. No more than four of the seven com-
missioners may be registered members of the same political party.
The terms of the commissioners shall be staggered so that two new
commissioners shall be appointed each biennium with three new
commissioners appointed every third biennium. One commissioner
shall be appointed from the state at large; one from the First
Judicial District; one from the Second Judicial District; and two
each from the Third and Fourth Judicial Districts. The two com-
missioners appointed from the Third and Fourth Judicial Districts
shall be appointed from different areas within those districts.
Members of the commission shall receive an annual salary and be
entitled to the usual travel and per diem allowances for members
of state boards and commissions as provided by law.

1 Sec. 2. COMMISSION: POWERS AND DUTIES. The state Highway
2 Commission is vested with the duties, powers and responsibilities
3 involved in the construction, maintenance, and operation of all
4 state highways, ferries, roads, bridges, traffic signs and sig-
5 nals and the use and custody of state property and equipment
6 heretofore assigned to the Department of Public Works as the
7 successor to the Alaska Highway and Public Works Department per
8 Sec. 19, Ch. 64, SLA 1959.

9 Sec. 3. DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS. The commission, subject to
10 the approval of the governor, appoints a director of highways to
11 act as the principal administrative officer of the department and
12 serve at its pleasure. The director shall be a registered pro-
13 fessional engineer experienced and skilled in state highway
14 administration, construction and maintenance. He is responsible
15 for the general administration of the department and its programs
16 subject to the approval of the commission. Under the supervision
17 of the commission he shall have complete charge of selecting and
18 establishing the state highway system. He serves as an ex officio
19 and non-voting member of the commission.

20 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect July 1, 1961.
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