

Introduced: 2/11/64
Referred: Commerce and
Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE BY MESSRS. GRAVEL, SULLIVAN, M.
2 REED, JOSEPHSON, MOSELEY AND RADER

3 HOUSE BILL NO. 308

4 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

5 THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

6 A BILL

7 For an Act entitled: "An Act creating an Alaska-Pacific Basin
8 Trade Commission; and providing for an
9 effective date."

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

11 * Section 1. PURPOSE. (a) Human beings are likely to con-
12 tinue to exist on the earth only if the people of the world can
13 learn to amicably settle international disputes. Throughout the
14 history of the world, battles for markets have been a major cause
15 of war; but, as former President Eisenhower has said, "there is no
16 alternative to peace." The alternative to learning how to trade
17 peaceably with our neighbors is the unacceptable alternative of
18 annihilation. Alaska, as a people and as a sovereign state, has
19 a moral obligation to contribute as much as it can contribute to
20 international understanding and to overcoming parochial, legal,
21 and traditional trade barriers with its neighbors.

22 (b) Furthermore, the economic future of Alaska depends upon
23 developing its international trade. Alaska's economic future is
24 based upon its natural resources. The distances and costs of
25 transportation in commerce with the other states make it imperative
26 that Alaska develop trade in other areas of the world as well as
27 stimulate trade with the other states, if early and substantial
28 growth is to be attained. Alaska's geographical location gives it
29 the possibility of becoming a leader in international trade with
the countries bordering on the Pacific Ocean. Further, these

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1 countries comprise the only existing potential market for the
2 raw materials of the state, and, with the low cost of water trans-
3 portation, the import of certain finished products from those
4 countries can create a balance of trade. For the purpose of help-
5 ing to preserve the peace as well as of stimulating and expanding
6 trade with the Pacific Basin countries it is necessary that a
7 commission be created.

8 * Sec. 2. AS 44.19 is amended by adding new sections to read:

9 ARTICLE 7. ALASKA-PACIFIC BASIN TRADE COMMISSION.

10 Sec. 44.19.460. ALASKA-PACIFIC BASIN TRADE COMMISSION.
11 There is created an Alaska-Pacific Basin Trade Commission in
12 the Office of the Governor.

13 Sec. 44.19.470. COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF OFFICE. (a)
14 The commission consists of 15 members who, unless otherwise
15 provided for in (b) of this section, are appointed by the
16 governor for overlapping three-year terms.

17 (b) The governor is chairman of the commission. The
18 governor shall appoint to the commission

- 19 (1) the president of the senate,
- 20 (2) the speaker of the house of representatives,
- 21 (3) a representative of organized labor,
- 22 (4) a representative of management,
- 23 (5) a person affiliated with the mining industry,
- 24 (6) a person affiliated with the fishing industry,
- 25 (7) a person affiliated with the timber industry,
- 26 (8) a person affiliated with the tourism industry,
- 27 (9) a person affiliated with banking,
- 28 (10) a person affiliated with the transportation
29 industry,

- 1 (11) a representative of higher education,
2 (12) a secretary of the commission, who may be a
3 member of the executive branch of the government,
4 (13) two other persons.

5 Sec. 44.19.480. COMPENSATION, PER DIEM, AND EXPENSES.
6 Members of the commission, except the chairman, the members
7 of the legislature, and the secretary, are not entitled to a
8 salary, per diem, reimbursement for travel, or other expenses
9 from the state. The chairman, members of the legislature,
10 and the secretary are entitled to transportation allowances
11 and per diem provided for in AS 39.20.180.

12 Sec. 44.19.490. ORGANIZATION AND MEETING OF THE COM-
13 MISSION. Within 30 days after the appointment of all members
14 the commission shall meet at a time and place agreed upon by a
15 majority of the members through correspondence to elect from
16 the membership a vice chairman and such other officers as they
17 consider necessary, and to establish policy and rules to
18 govern the commission. Eight members constitute a quorum to
19 do business.

20 Sec. 44.19.500. DUTIES. The primary duty of the com-
21 mission is to formulate specific projects for developing each
22 of the potentially marketable resources in the state, and
23 then to find persons in the Pacific Basin countries to
24 develop and purchase the resources. In the interest of
25 maintaining a balance between imports and exports, the com-
26 mission also has the duty of assisting entrepreneurs in the
27 Pacific Basin countries to find markets for their products in
28 Alaska. The commission, in accomplishing its duties, shall

- 29 (1) invite citizens of foreign countries to visit

1 Alaska informally to become acquainted with the state, meet
2 its businessmen, labor leaders, and government officials, for
3 the purpose of increasing mutual understanding on a personal
4 basis between citizens of foreign countries and Alaskans;

5 (2) arrange for and hold international conferences
6 in Alaska to discuss specific development or trade projects,
7 to acquaint citizens of countries of the Pacific Basin with
8 development and trade prospects in Alaska.

9 Sec. 44.19.510. POWERS. The commission may elect sub-
10 committees of any number of members to collect information
11 and to travel to the countries of the Pacific Basin to carry
12 out its duties.

13 Sec. 44.19.520. DEFINITIONS. In secs. 460 - 530 of
14 this chapter "commission" means the Alaska-Pacific Basin
15 Trade Commission. The commission may make reports to the
16 legislature and may recommend legislation relating to pro-
17 jects to develop international trade.

18 Sec. 44.19.530. SHORT TITLE. Secs. 460 - 530 of this
19 chapter may be cited as the Alaska-Pacific Basin Trade Com-
20 mission Act.

21 * Sec. 3. INITIAL APPOINTMENTS. Of the 12 commission members
22 described in AS 44.19.470(3) - (13) the governor shall appoint
23 four for an initial term of one year, four for an initial term of
24 two years, and four for an initial term of three years.

25 * Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect on the day
26 after its passage and approval or on the day it becomes law with-
27 out such approval.

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