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Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SENATORS BANFIELD,
PERATROVICH AND HOPSON

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SENATE BILL NO. 310

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6

For an Act entitled: "An Act to establish the Alaska Arts and
7 Crafts Council; and providing for an effec-
8 tive date."

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

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* Section 1. The legislature recognizes that Alaska arts and
11 crafts have suffered increasingly from loss of markets, decline
12 of income realized by artists and craftsmen, and general public
13 indifference. The correction of this situation is imperative if
14 significant arts and crafts are not to be altogether lost and if
15 an important source of income to a considerable portion of the
16 population of the state is not also to be lost. Although prior
17 legislative measures have been enacted to insure a certain amount
18 of authenticity, a broader attack on the problem is necessary if
19 the cultural and aesthetic aspects of existing Alaska arts and
20 crafts are not to deteriorate into slavish imitation of the past,
21 and if new and vital art forms are to be developed. The legis-
22 lature therefore regards it as necessary to create a body which
23 through study, analysis and evaluation of the forms of Alaska art,
24 and through education, persuasion, and encouragement, will bring
25 about a renaissance of Alaska art.

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

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ARTICLE 8. ALASKA ARTS AND CRAFTS COUNCIL

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Sec. 44.19.600. ALASKA ARTS AND CRAFTS COUNCIL. (a)

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There is created in the Office of the Governor the Alaska

1 Arts and Crafts Council, consisting of seven members appoint-
2 ed by the governor for overlapping three-year terms and
3 subject to confirmation by the legislature. Members serve
4 at the pleasure of the governor. Vacancies are filled in the
5 same manner that regular appointments are made.

6 (b) The governor shall appoint to the council from
7 among residents of the state one established practicing
8 artist, one representative of the Indian Arts and Crafts
9 Board, one university-level art- or fine-craft teacher or
10 equivalent, one anthropologist or recognized authority on
11 Alaska's indigenous arts and crafts, one representative of
12 the state concerned with general economic development, one
13 commercial dealer in art and fine handicraft, and one lay
14 member with demonstrated understanding and interest in
15 Alaska arts and crafts. At least one member shall be of
16 Alaskan Indian ancestry and one of Eskimo or Aleut ancestry.

17 Sec. 44.19.610. POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The council
18 shall

19 (1) establish standards of quality, authenticity
20 and artistic merit for works of art or handicraft produced
21 in the state, in order to encourage the best efforts of
22 artists and craftsmen and to protect buyers;

23 (2) foster the creation of a body of identifiable
24 Alaskan arts and crafts through preservation, revival and
25 further development of traditional forms, and the creation
26 of new forms which will reflect the unique spirit and nature
27 of Alaska;

28 (3) seek to educate the public on the recognition
29 and appreciation of Alaskan art forms;

1 (4) suggest pricing and marketing policies which
2 will assure just return to the craftsmen for their work, and
3 fair value for payment made by the purchaser;

4 (5) recommend means to protect the artist and the
5 consumer against unfair competition from imitations and un-
6 authorized reproductions;

7 (6) review and evaluate art and craft items sent
8 to it by established governmental, private, and cooperative
9 organizations engaged in the production of such items or by
10 individual craftsmen.

11 (b) The council may

12 (1) endorse such items as meet with its approval
13 and indicate such approval by means of a tag or seal;

14 (2) establish a system of classifying works of
15 arts or crafts by aesthetic merit, origin, purpose, means or
16 materials of manufacture, cultural authenticity, or any com-
17 bination of these and other factors, and provide for the
18 identification of objects it classifies, by means of a tag
19 or seal;

20 (3) sponsor competitions and exhibitions and
21 offer awards and prizes;

22 (4) adopt and use distinctive seals;

23 (5) designate subcommittees to carry out specified
24 functions between regular meetings of the council;

25 (6) receive, manage, and spend for authorized pur-
26 poses any gifts or grants which it may receive;

27 (7) employ necessary clerical assistance.

28 Sec. 44.19.620. MEETINGS AND OFFICERS. (a) The
29 council shall meet at least twice a year at times it deter-

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mines. The chairman may call other meetings. A majority of the members of the council or of a subcommittee of it constitute a quorum for the conduct of business of the council, or of a subcommittee of it, as the case may be.

(b) The council shall annually appoint a chairman and a vice-chairman.

Sec. 44.19.630. COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES. Members of the council receive no salary, but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized by law for boards and councils.

Sec. 44.19.640. FALSE REPRESENTATION THAT AN ARTICLE HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED OR APPROVED BY COUNCIL. No person may so use the name of the council, its tags, seals, or other identifying marks, or tags, seals, or marks having a similarity to those adopted by the council, as to indicate or suggest that an object of art or handicraft has been classified or approved by the council, when in fact it has not been so classified or approved. A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

* Sec. 3. This Act takes effect on July 1, 1964.