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1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 207

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

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

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

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

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

1 these countries comprise the only existing potential market for
2 the raw materials of the state, and, with the low cost of water
3 transportation, the import of certain finished products from
4 those countries can create a balance of trade. For the purpose
5 of helping to preserve the peace as well as of stimulating and
6 expanding trade with the Pacific Basin countries it is necessary
7 that a 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. 44.19.700. ALASKA-PACIFIC BASIN TRADE COMMISSION.

11 There is created an Alaska-Pacific Basin Trade Commission in
12 the Office of the Governor.

13 Sec. 44.19.710. 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 shall appoint the president of the
18 senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the
19 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress as ex officio
20 members of the commission. The remaining members of the
21 commission shall be appointed because of their knowledge
22 and experience concerning commerce, labor, management, mining,
23 fishing, timber, tourism, banking, transportation, education
24 or other appropriate vocations, can be expected to contri-
25 bute significantly to the achievement of the purposes for
26 which the commission is created.

27 Sec. 44.19.720. ORGANIZATION AND MEETING OF THE
28 COMMISSION. Within 30 days after the appointment of all
29 members, the commission shall meet at a time and place

1 agreed upon by a majority of the members through corres-
2 pondence to elect from the membership a chairman, a vice
3 chairman and such other officers as they consider necessary,
4 and to establish policy and rules to govern the commission.
5 Eight members constitute a quorum to do business.

6 Sec. 44.19.730. COMPENSATION, PER DIEM, AND EXPENSES.
7 Members of the commission are not entitled to a salary but
8 employees and elected officials of the state serving on the
9 commission are entitled to transportation allowances and
10 per diem provided for in AS 39.20.

11 Sec. 44.19.740. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. (a) The commis-
12 sion shall employ an executive director. The executive
13 director shall be professionally trained and experienced in
14 the performance of his duties. The selection of the execu-
15 tive director is subject to the approval of the governor.
16 The commission may delegate to the executive director the
17 functions it considers proper.

18 (b) The executive director shall not have any
19 business interests that may be affected, either favorably
20 or unfavorably, by the operation of the commission.

21 Sec. 44.19.750. DUTIES. The primary duty of the
22 commission is to formulate specific projects for developing
23 each of the potentially marketable resources in the state,
24 and then to find persons in the Pacific Basin countries to
25 develop and purchase the resources. In the interest of
26 maintaining a balance between imports and exports, the
27 commission also has the duty of assisting entrepreneurs in
28 the Pacific Basin countries to find markets for their
29 products in Alaska. The commission, in accomplishing its

1 duties, shall

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

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

12 Sec. 44.19.760. POWERS. The commission may elect sub-
13 committees of any number of members to collect information
14 and to travel to the countries of the Pacific Basin to carry
15 out its duties.

16 Sec. 44.19.770. DEFINITIONS. In secs. 700-780 of
17 this chapter "commission" means the Alaska-Pacific Basin
18 Trade Commission. The commission may make reports to the
19 legislature and may recommend legislation relating to
20 projects to develop international trade.

21 Sec. 44.19.780. SHORT TITLE. Secs. 700-780 of this
22 chapter may be cited as the Alaska-Pacific Basin Trade
23 Commission Act.

24 * Sec. 3. INITIAL APPOINTMENTS. Of the commission members
25 appointed at large under AS 44.19.710(b), the governor shall
26 appoint three for an initial term of one year, three for an
27 initial term of two years, and four for an initial term of three
28 years.

29 * Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect on the day

1 after its passage and approval or on the day it becomes law
2 without such approval.
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