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1 IN THE SENATE

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2 SENATE BILL NO. 158

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the creation of the Commission for
7 Western and Northern Operations of Rail Transportation
8 and Highways; defining the commission's powers and
9 duties; and providing for an effective date."

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

11 * Section 1. AS 44.19 is amended by adding new sections to read:

12 Sec. 44.19.700. CREATION OF COMMISSION. There is created in the
13 office of the governor the Commission for Western and Northern Opera-
14 tions of Rail Transportation and Highways.

15 Sec. 44.19.702. PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION. The commission shall
16 act as an advisory commission to the governor and to the legislature
17 to promote and implement the policy of the state regarding economic
18 development of western and northern Alaska as defined by Senate Joint
19 Resolution No. , SLA 1967.

20 Sec. 44.19.704. COMPOSITION AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION. The
21 commission consists of 10 members, five from Alaska and five from the
22 nation as a whole, appointed by the governor on a non-partisan basis.
23 Consideration shall be given to representation on the commission from
24 groups interested in economic development of western and northern
25 Alaska. Members of the commission shall be appointed as set out in
26 AS 39.05.060. Only board members from Alaska have voting privileges.

27 Sec. 44.19.706. COMPENSATION AND PER DIEM. Members of the
28 commission serve without compensation but are entitled to per diem and
29 travel expenses authorized by law for other boards and commissions.

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1 **Sec. 44.19.708. CHAIRMAN AND QUORUM.** The governor shall designate
2 a chairman and vice chairman of the commission. Six members constitute
3 a quorum.

4 **Sec. 44.19.710. PERSONNEL.** The commission shall employ sufficient
5 personnel to carry out the provisions of secs. 700 - 714 of this
6 chapter.

7 **Sec. 44.19.712. POWERS AND DUTIES.** The commission shall

8 (1) secure and study all information available relating to
9 past and present studies, recommendations and actions made by state,
10 federal and local government agencies specifically dealing with the
11 human, economic and transportation problems of western and northern
12 Alaska;

13 (2) develop working relationships with all governmental
14 agencies and with representatives of all industries interested in
15 economic development of western and northern Alaska;

16 (3) study and develop information and recommendations
17 regarding routings and feasibility of the various modes of transporta-
18 tion and establish relative construction data such as costs, construc-
19 tion time and other comparative data;

20 (4) review and report regularly to the proper committees
21 of the legislature and governor on progress made toward implementation
22 of the state's economic development policy for western and northern
23 Alaska;

24 (5) receive and expend grants and appropriations from
25 private and governmental sources for the purpose of developing and
26 operating resource trails, roads and railroads to western and northern
27 Alaska; and

28 (6) construct and maintain access improvements with the
29 intent of developing resources of western and northern Alaska.

1 Sec. 44.19.714. REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE. The commission shall
2 make an annual report to the legislature within 20 days following the
3 convening of each annual session of the legislature outlining progress
4 toward full implementation of state development policy and expenditures
5 in western and northern Alaska.

6 * Sec. 2. AS 39.05.060 is amended to read:

7 Sec. 39.05.060. APPOINTMENT, QUALIFICATIONS, AND TERMS OF OFFICE
8 OF MEMBERS OF DEPARTMENTAL BOARDS, COUNCILS, OR COMMISSIONS. Each
9 member of the Local Boundary Commission, Alcoholic Beverages Control
10 Board, Board of Education, Employment Security Advisory Council, Alaska
11 State Housing Authority, Board of Fish and Game, [AND] Board of Tourism
12 and the Commission for Western and Northern Operations of Rail Trans-
13 portation and Highways shall be a citizen of the United States. The
14 governor shall appoint each member on the basis of interest in public
15 affairs, good judgment, knowledge and ability in the field of action
16 of the department for which appointed, and with a view to providing
17 diversity of interest and points of view in the membership. Appoint-
18 ments are subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the
19 legislature in joint session. Initial appointments of members are as
20 follows: (1) in the case of three-member boards, for one, two, and
21 three years; (2) in the case of five-member boards, for one, two,
22 three, four and five years; (3) in the case of six-member boards, two
23 members serve for one year, two for two years, and two for three years;
24 (4) and in the case of eight-member boards, two members serve for one
25 year, two for two years, two for three years, and two for four years;
26 (5) and in the case of ten-member boards, two members serve for one
27 year, two for two years, two for three years, two for four years, and
28 two for five years. Initial terms date from February 1 before appoint-
29 ment. A vacancy occurring during a term of office is filled in the

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same manner as the original appointment is made and for the balance of the unexpired term. Each member holds office at the pleasure of the governor notwithstanding the member's term.

*** Sec. 3. This Act takes effect on the day after its passage and approval or on the day it becomes law without approval.**