

Introduced: 3/10/71  
Referred: Commerce and  
Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY GUESS AND KERTTULA

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 297

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act creating the Public Communications Commission."

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

8 \* Section 1. AS 44.19 is amended by adding new sections in art. 7 to  
9 read:

10 ARTICLE 7. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION [EMPLOYMENT  
11 ADVISORY COMMISSION].

12 Sec. 44.19.461. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION. There is  
13 created in the Office of the Governor the Public Communications  
14 Commission.

15 Sec. 44.19.471. MEMBERSHIP AND TERM OF OFFICE. (a) The commis-  
16 sion consists of nine members appointed by the governor, without  
17 regard to political affiliation, subject to confirmation by a majority  
18 of the members of the legislature in joint session. In making appoint-  
19 ments to the commission, the governor shall give due consideration to  
20 representation from such fields as higher education, elementary and  
21 secondary education, commercial broadcasting, public health, public  
22 works, labor, commerce and the professions. Members serve at the  
23 pleasure of the governor.

24 (b) The members of the commission shall serve staggered terms of  
25 five years, with the initial terms determined by lot.

26 Sec. 44.19.481. COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES. Members of the com-  
27 mission receive no salary, but are entitled to per diem and travel  
28 expenses authorized by law for other commissions.

29 Sec. 44.19.491. CHAIRMAN. At the first meeting, the commission

1 shall elect a chairman from among its members to serve for one year.  
2 A chairman may be elected and serve for more than one consecutive term.

3 Sec. 44.19.501. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMISSION. (a)

4 The commission may

5 (1) establish a telecommunications system for the state;

6 (2) lease, purchase, construct, own, operate, manage and  
7 be the licensee of broadcasting stations, production centers, and all  
8 other facilities and equipment needed for the development of an inte-  
9 grated statewide telecommunications system, including long-line,  
10 satellite, microwave, television, radio, telegraph and facsimile  
11 communications;

12 (3) apply for and receive from the federal government or  
13 its agencies the status of "authorized user" and whatever other  
14 approval is needed to construct and operate a telecommunication  
15 system in the state;

16 (4) apply for and receive from the federal government, its  
17 agencies, or from other public or private sources, gifts, grants, or  
18 other aids available in order to carry out the provisions of secs.  
19 461 - 531 of this chapter. The department may use a gift, grant and  
20 other aid subject to reasonable limitations imposed by the grantor.

21 (b) The commission shall

22 (1) institute a program of standardization of state communi-  
23 cation equipment to provide for an efficient integration of communi-  
24 cations throughout the state;

25 (2) advise and recommend state policies to the governor for  
26 the development of all phases of communications in the state;

27 (3) formulate a continuing program for the development of  
28 an integrated statewide telecommunications system, including long-line,  
29 satellite, microwave, television, radio, telegraph and facsimile

1 communications;

2 (4) provide and institute immediately a statewide emergency  
3 communications network system, including medical support, civil defense  
4 and other emergency communications;

5 (5) provide for the assignment of telecommunications fre-  
6 quencies to intrastate users of telecommunications equipment;

7 (6) adopt regulations necessary to carry out the powers and  
8 duties of the commission.

9 Sec. 44.19.511. DUTIES AND POWERS OF COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO  
10 EDUCATIONAL BROADCASTING. (a) The Public Communications Commission  
11 shall

12 (1) control and supervise the use of broadcasting channels  
13 reserved by the Federal Communications Commission for educational  
14 broadcasting purposes;

15 (2) initiate or receive for review and approval all appli-  
16 cations for educational broadcasting licenses submitted to the Federal  
17 Communications Commission for or on behalf of an elementary school  
18 system, community college, institution of higher learning, private  
19 educational institution, nonprofit community or municipal organization  
20 in the state;

21 (3) initiate or receive for review and approval all appli-  
22 cations for federal, state or private funds if the applications involve  
23 any form of educational broadcasting;

24 (4) receive all federal, state or private funds, property  
25 or assistance that may be appropriated, granted or otherwise made  
26 available to the department for educational broadcasting purposes at  
27 all levels of education, and use and disburse funds and property for  
28 purposes consistent with the terms of this chapter, subject to reason-  
29 able limitations imposed by the grantor;

1 (5) provide consultative services in all aspects of  
2 educational broadcasting to all public or private agencies in the  
3 state which request them;

4 (6) serve as a library and clearinghouse for information  
5 on broadcasting for educational and public purposes;

6 (7) have the final authority over the broadcasting policy  
7 programming; and

8 (8) perform all other functions necessary to insure the  
9 orderly and coordinated development of educational broadcasting in  
10 the state.

11 (b) The commission may

12 (1) lease, purchase, construct, own, operate, manage and  
13 be the licensee of educational broadcasting stations, production  
14 centers, and all other related equipment and facilities for the pro-  
15 duction and transmission of open circuit, closed circuit, 2,500  
16 Megahertz, and other transmission means necessary to provide fully  
17 effective educational broadcasting in the state;

18 (2) appoint unpaid advisory committees to assist in devel-  
19 opment of programs for instructional and public television broadcasts.

20 Sec. 44.19.521. COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING. Nothing in secs. 461 -  
21 531 of this chapter may be construed to restrict or control commercial  
22 broadcast stations or companies operating or licensed in the state.

23 Sec. 44.19.531. DEFINITIONS. In secs. 461 - 531 of this chapter

24 (1) "commission" means the Public Communications Commission;

25 (2) "educational broadcasting" includes, but is not limited  
26 to, television and radio transmission by 2,500 Megahertz, closed circuit  
27 or microwave video and audio programming, slow-scan television program-  
28 ming, programming via satellite, teletype or facsimile transmission,  
29 and distribution methods, when the transmission, programming and

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distribution are intended to serve a noncommercial educational, public or instructional purpose.

\* Sec. 2. AS 14.58 is repealed.