

1 IN THE SENATE

BY RAY

2 SENATE BILL NO. 11

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act providing for reorganization and establishment
7 of legislative fiscal support services; and providing
8 for an effective date."

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

10 * Section 1. AS 24.20.150 - 24.20.370 are repealed.

11 * Sec. 2. AS 24.20 is amended by adding new sections to read:

12 Sec. 24.20.151. LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE. The
13 Alaska Legislative Budget and Audit Committee is established as a
14 permanent interim committee of the legislature. The establishment of
15 the committee recognizes the need of the legislature for full-time
16 technical assistance in accomplishing the fiscal analysis, budget
17 review and post-audit functions.

18 Sec. 24.20.161. MEMBERSHIP. The legislative budget and audit
19 committee is composed of the chairmen of the senate and house finance
20 committees, elected at each session of the legislature, and three
21 members each from the senate and from the house appointed by the
22 president of the senate and the speaker of the house, respectively.
23 The membership from each house shall include at least one member from
24 each of the two major political parties.

25 Sec. 24.20.171. TERM OF MEMBERSHIP. Members serve for the
26 duration of the legislature during which they are appointed. If they
27 are re-elected or their term of office extends into the next succeeding
28 legislature, they continue to serve until reappointed or the appointment
29 of their successor.

1 Sec. 24.20.181. VACANCIES. When a vacancy occurs in the
2 membership of the committee, the presiding officer of the house
3 incurring the vacancy shall choose a successor. If the office of
4 the president of the senate or speaker of the house of representatives
5 becomes vacant and a vacancy from the effected house occurs among
6 the membership of the committee, the remaining committee members from
7 the house incurring the vacancy shall appoint a new member.

8 Sec. 24.20.191. MEETINGS. The budget and audit committee may
9 meet during sessions of the legislature and during the interim between
10 sessions at such times and places inside the state as the chairman
11 may determine. Members may receive, for the minimum time required to
12 get to and from meetings and for the period while attending meetings,
13 the same travel and per diem allowances provided by law for members of
14 the legislature when attending sessions.

15 Sec. 24.20.201. POWERS. The legislative budget and audit
16 committee has the power to:

17 (1) organize, adopt rules for the conduct of its business
18 and prescribe procedures for the comprehensive fiscal analysis,
19 budget review and post-audit functions;

20 (2) hold public hearings, administer oaths, issue subpoenas,
21 compel the attendance of witnesses and production of papers, books,
22 accounts, documents and testimony, and to have the deposition of
23 witnesses taken in a manner prescribed by court rule or law for
24 taking depositions in civil actions;

25 (3) require all state officials and agencies of state
26 government to give full cooperation to the committee or its staff in
27 assembling and furnishing requested information;

28 (4) review revenue projections, state agency appropriation
29 requests, the expenditure of state funds, including the relationship

1 between state agency program accomplishments and legislative intent,
2 and the fiscal policies and procedures of state government;

3 (5) make recommendations concerning appropriations, their
4 expenditure and the fiscal policies and procedures of state government
5 to the governor where appropriate, and the legislature;

6 (6) prepare and distribute reports, memoranda or other
7 necessary materials.

8 Sec. 24.20.211. LEGISLATIVE FINANCE DIVISION. The legislative
9 finance division is established as a permanent staff agency responsible
10 to the legislative budget and audit committee for performance of
11 fiscal analysis and budget review functions.

12 Sec. 24.20.221. STAFF. (a) The committee shall hire and
13 determine the salary of the legislative fiscal analyst who shall
14 serve both at the direction and pleasure of the committee. The fiscal
15 analyst shall serve as head of the finance division and, within the
16 limits of the budget approved by the committee, shall employ and
17 determine the compensation of the professional and clerical staff of
18 the division.

19 (b) The fiscal analyst and members of the professional and
20 clerical staff shall not join or support any partisan political
21 organization. This prohibition does not prevent the fiscal analyst
22 or members of the staff from joining social organizations, expressing
23 private opinion, registering as to party or voting.

24 Sec. 24.20.231. DUTIES. The legislative finance division shall

25 (1) analyze the budget and appropriation requests of each
26 department, institution, bureau, board, commission or other agency of
27 state government;

28 (2) analyze the revenue requirements of the state;

29 (3) provide the finance committees of the legislature with

1 comprehensive budget review and fiscal analysis services;

2 (4) cooperate with the division of budget and management
3 in establishing a comprehensive system for state program budgeting
4 and financial management as set out in the Executive Budget Act
5 (AS 37.07);

6 (5) complete studies and prepare reports, memoranda or other
7 materials as directed by the legislative budget and audit committee.

8 Sec. 24.20.241. LEGISLATIVE AUDIT DIVISION. The legislative
9 audit division is established as a permanent staff agency responsible
10 to the legislative budget and audit committee for completion of the
11 post-audit function.

12 Sec. 24.20.251. QUALIFICATIONS AND APPOINTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE
13 AUDITOR. (a) The legislative auditor shall be a certified public
14 accountant of this state, or of another state having requirements
15 equivalent to those of this state, with at least five years of practice
16 in the profession, or the equivalent, before his appointment.

17 (b) The legislative budget and audit committee shall examine
18 persons to serve as legislative auditor and, upon completion of the
19 examination, place the name of the person selected in nomination before
20 the legislature. If the legislature is not in session, the person
21 nominated shall carry out the duties of the office until the next
22 session of the legislature at which time the name of the person
23 nominated shall be presented to the legislature for appointment.

24 (c) The legislative auditor serves at the pleasure of the
25 legislature. However, when the legislature is not in session, the
26 auditor may be removed for cause by a majority vote of the legislative
27 budget and audit committee after notice by, and a hearing before, the
28 committee.

29 Sec. 24.20.261. STAFF. (a) The legislative budget and audit

1 committee shall hire and determine the salary of a supervisor of audit
2 who shall serve both at the direction and pleasure of the committee.
3 The supervisor shall serve as head of the audit division and, within
4 the limits of the budget approved by the committee, shall employ and
5 determine the compensation of the professional and clerical staff of
6 the division.

7 (b) The auditor, the supervisor of audit and members of the
8 professional and clerical staff may not join or support any partisan
9 political organization. This prohibition does not prevent the auditor
10 or members of the staff from joining social organizations, expressing
11 private opinion, registering as to party or voting.

12 Sec. 24.20.271. POWERS AND DUTIES. The legislative audit division
13 shall

14 (1) perform an audit, complete with a written report, at
15 least once every three years on the books and accounts of every depart-
16 ment, institution, bureau, board, commission or other agency of state
17 government;

18 (2) audit at least once every three years the books and
19 accounts of all custodians of public funds and all disbursing officers
20 of the state;

21 (3) at the direction of the legislative budget and audit
22 committee, conduct performance post-audits on any agency of state
23 government;

24 (4) cooperate with state agencies by offering advice and
25 assistance as requested in establishing or improving the accounting
26 systems used by state agencies;

27 (5) require the assistance and cooperation of all state
28 officials and other state employees in the inspection, examination
29 and audit of state agency books and accounts;

1 (6) have access at all times to the books, accounts, reports
2 or other records, whether confidential or not, of every state agency;

3 (7) ascertain, as necessary for audit verification, the
4 amount of agency funds on deposit in any bank as shown on the books of
5 the bank; no bank may be held liable for making information required
6 under this sub-paragraph available to the legislative audit division;

7 (8) complete studies and prepare reports, memoranda or other
8 materials as directed by the legislative budget and audit committee.

9 Sec. 24.20.281. SPECIAL AUDIT. A member of the legislature may,
10 in writing and with at least six days notice, request that the budget
11 and audit committee direct a special audit of any state agency. Should
12 a majority of the committee vote to approve the request, the legisla-
13 tive audit division shall make the audit.

14 Sec. 24.20.291. CONFLICT OF INTEREST. The legislative auditor,
15 the supervisor of audit, the legislative fiscal analyst and members of
16 the staff of the legislative finance and audit divisions shall not
17 serve in ex officio or other capacity on any board, commission or
18 other administrative agency of state government; nor shall they have a
19 financial interest in transactions involving any agency of state
20 government.

21 Sec. 24.20.301. RECORDS. (a) The legislative audit division
22 shall keep a complete file of all audit reports and other reports or
23 releases issued by the division, and a complete file of audit work
24 papers and other related supportive material. The division shall also
25 keep a complete and accurate record of all fiscal transactions
26 involving the division.

27 (b) The legislative finance division shall keep a complete file
28 of all budget reports and other reports or releases issued by the
29 division and a complete and accurate record of all fiscal transactions

1 involving the division.

2 Sec. 24.20.311. REPORTS. The committee shall file copies of its
3 approved audit reports including any committee recommendations with the
4 governor, the agency concerned and the legislature. An annual report
5 summarizing the audit reports and committee recommendations made during
6 the year shall be filed with the governor and with the legislature
7 within the first five days of each regular session of the legislature.
8 Reports shall be approved by a majority of the committee prior to their
9 release and shall be open to public inspection after their release to
10 the legislature.

11 * Sec. 3. AS 37.07.040(5) is amended to read:

12 (5) provide the legislative finance division [LEGISLATIVE
13 AFFAIRS AGENCY] with the budget information it may request.

14 * Sec. 4. AS 37.07.050(a) is amended to read:

15 (a) Each state agency on the date and in the form and content
16 prescribed by the division, shall prepare and forward to the division
17 and the legislative finance division [LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY]

18 (1) the goals and objectives of the agency programs,
19 together with proposed supplements, deletions and revision;

20 (2) its proposed plans to implement the goals and objectives,
21 including estimates of future service needs, planned methods of admini-
22 stration, proposed modification of existing program services and estab-
23 lishment of new program services, and the estimated resources needed
24 to carry out the proposed plan;

25 (3) the budget requested to carry out its proposed plans in
26 the succeeding fiscal year, including information reflecting the expen-
27 ditures during the last fiscal year, those authorized for the current
28 fiscal year, those proposed for the succeeding fiscal year, an explana-
29 tion of the services to be provided, the need for the services, the cost

1 of the services, and any other information requested by the division;

2 (4) a report of the receipts during the last fiscal year,
3 an estimate of the receipts during the current fiscal year, and an
4 estimate for the succeeding fiscal year;

5 (5) a statement of legislation required to implement the
6 proposed programs and financial plans;

7 (6) an evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages of
8 specific alternatives to existing or proposed program policies or
9 administrative methods.

10 * Sec. 5. AS 37.07.090(a) is amended to read:

11 (a) Each state agency shall submit a performance report to the
12 division no later than September 1 for the preceding fiscal year.
13 These reports shall be in the form prescribed by the division after
14 consultation with the legislative finance division [LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
15 AGENCY], and shall include statements concerning

16 (1) the work accomplished and the services provided in the
17 preceding fiscal year or other meaningful work period, relating actual
18 accomplishments to those planned under sec. 80(b) of this chapter;

19 (2) the relationship of accomplishments and services to the
20 policy decisions and budget determinations of the governor and the
21 legislature;

22 (3) the costs of accomplishing the work and providing the
23 services, and, to the extent feasible, citing meaningful measures of
24 program effectiveness and cost;

25 (4) the administrative improvements made in the preceding
26 year, potential improvements in future years, and suggested changes in
27 legislation or administrative procedures to make further improvements.

28 * Sec. 6. AS 24.20.060(4)(D) is repealed.

29 * Sec. 7. This Act takes effect on July 1, 1971.