

1 IN THE SENATE

BY MILLER

2 SENATE BILL NO. 253

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to public agency meetings."

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

8 * Section 1. AS 44.62.310(a) is amended to read:

9 (a) All meetings of a legislative body or of an administrative
10 body, board, commission, committee, subcommittee, authority, council,
11 agency, or other organization, including subordinate units of the above
12 groups, of the state or any of its political subdivisions, including
13 but not limited to municipalities, boroughs, school boards, and all
14 other boards, agencies, assemblies, councils, departments, divisions,
15 bureaus, commissions or organizations, advisory or otherwise, of the
16 state or local government supported in whole or in part by public money
17 or authorized to spend public money, are open to the public except as
18 otherwise provided by this section.

19 * Sec. 2. AS 44.62.310(c)(1) is amended to read:

20 (1) matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly
21 have an adverse effect upon [ADVERSELY AFFECT] the finances of the
22 government unit;

23 * Sec. 3. AS 44.62 is amended by adding a new section in Article 6 to
24 read:

25 Sec. 44.62.312. STATE POLICY REGARDING MEETINGS. (a) It is the
26 policy of the state that

27 (1) the governmental units mentioned in sec. 310(a) of this
28 chapter exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business;

29 (2) it is the intent of the law that actions of those units

1 be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly;

2 (3) the people of this state do not yield their sovereignty
3 to the agencies which serve them;

4 (4) the people, in delegating authority, do not give their
5 public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know
6 and what is not good for them to know;

7 (5) the people's right to remain informed shall be protected
8 so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created.

9 (b) Sec. 310(b)(1) of this chapter shall be construed narrowly
10 in order to effectuate the policy stated in (a) of this section and
11 avoid unnecessary executive sessions.
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