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1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2 SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 151

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to public service commissions within
7 the Office of the Governor.

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

9 * Section 1. AS 44.19 is amended by adding a new section to read:

10 Sec. 44.19.942. GRANTS FOR YOUTH CULTURAL ACTIVITIES. (a) Sub-
11 ject to direct appropriation or from the proceeds of grants or donations,
12 the council may make matching grants to recognized student artistic
13 or cultural organizations, or to individual students of demonstrated
14 proficiency and particular promise, limited to those devoted to the
15 fine arts. Grants shall be used to aid in financing travel inside or
16 outside the state to participate in artistic and cultural activities
17 or events.

18 (b) Grants shall be limited to \$1,000 per individual or partici-
19 pating member of an organization to meet actual travel expenses; how-
20 ever, a grant to a single organization may not exceed \$20,000. To be
21 eligible, individuals and organizations shall demonstrate to the council
22 substantial personal or local effort and financial support in raising
23 necessary funds, and shall demonstrate the continuing nature of the
24 organization, or the individual's promise or determination to follow
25 a career or avocation in fine arts. No organization or individual may
26 be awarded more than one grant a year under this section.

27 (c) The council shall promulgate regulations to carry out this
28 section and shall distribute a copy, or a summary, of the regulations
29 to grant applicants. Promulgation of the regulations is not subject

1 to the Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62).

2 * Sec. 2. AS 44.19 is amended by adding new sections to read:

3 ARTICLE 8. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION [RURAL
4 DEVELOPMENT AGENCY].

5 Sec. 44.19.581. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION. There is
6 created in the Office of the Governor the Public Communications Com-
7 mission.

8 Sec. 44.19.586. MEMBERSHIP AND TERM OF OFFICE. (a) The commis-
9 sion consists of five members appointed by the governor, without
10 regard to political affiliation, subject to confirmation by a majority
11 of the members of the legislature in joint session. Members serve at
12 the pleasure of the governor.

13 (b) The members of the commission shall serve staggered terms of
14 three years, with the initial terms determined by lot.

15 Sec. 44.19.591. COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES. Members of the com-
16 mission receive no salary, but are entitled to \$35 per diem, and travel
17 expenses.

18 Sec. 44.19.596. CHAIRMAN. The governor shall appoint a chairman
19 to serve at his pleasure.

20 Sec. 44.19.601. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMISSION. (a)
21 The commission may

22 (1) establish a telecommunications system for the state or
23 any portion of a system, upon the approval of the Alaska Public Utilities
24 Commission;

25 (2) apply for and receive from the federal government or its
26 agencies the status of "authorized user" and whatever other approval
27 is needed to construct and operate a telecommunications system in the
28 state;

29 (3) apply for and receive from the federal government, its

1 agencies, or from other public or private sources, gifts, grants, or
2 other aids available in order to carry out the provisions of secs. 581 -
3 626 of this chapter. The commission may use a gift, grant and other
4 aid subject to reasonable limitations imposed by the grantor.

5 (b) The commission shall

6 (1) formulate a continuing program for the development of
7 an integrated statewide telecommunications system, including long-line,
8 satellite, microwave, television, radio, telegraph and facsimile
9 communications;

10 (2) keep currently informed of all local, national and
11 international developments affecting telecommunications in Alaska, and
12 be responsible for briefing the governor on their potential impact;

13 (3) conceive, review and recommend state policies to the
14 governor for the regulation and development of all phases of communica-
15 tions in the state;

16 (4) institute a program of standardization of state communi-
17 cation equipment to provide for an efficient integration of communica-
18 tions throughout the state;

19 (5) coordinate among state agencies telecommunication program
20 creation and broadcasting;

21 (6) provide and institute immediately a statewide emergency
22 communications network system, including medical support, civil defense
23 and other emergency communications;

24 (7) assist the attorney general in preparing for proceedings
25 on telecommunications before the Alaska Public Utilities Commission
26 and the Federal Communications Commission;

27 (8) to the extent allowed by the Federal Communications
28 Commission, provide for the assignment of telecommunications frequencies
29 to intrastate users of telecommunications equipment.

1 Sec. 44.19.606. DUTIES AND POWERS OF COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO
2 EDUCATIONAL BROADCASTING. (a) The Public Communications Commission
3 shall

4 (1) develop educational broadcast service to the public
5 schools of the state, institutions of higher education, children of
6 preschool age, and supply programs of educational value to the general
7 public;

8 (2) receive for review and approval applications for licenses
9 for educational broadcasting submitted to the Federal Communications
10 Commission and review them in accordance with the state communication
11 plan;

12 (3) initiate all applications to the Federal Communications
13 Commission for licenses for state-operated educational broadcasting;

14 (4) control and supervise the use of broadcasting channels
15 reserved for the state by the Federal Communications Commission for
16 educational broadcasting purposes;

17 (5) provide consultative services in all aspects of educa-
18 tional broadcasting to all public or private agencies in the state
19 which request them;

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

22 (7) receive all federal, state or private funds, property
23 or assistance that may be appropriated, granted or otherwise made
24 available to the state-operated educational broadcasting at any level
25 of education, and use and disburse funds and property for purposes
26 consistent with the terms of secs. 581 - 626 of this chapter, subject
27 to reasonable limitations imposed by the grantor;

28 (8) initiate all state applications for federal or private
29 funds, and receive for review and approval all applications for state

1 participation if the applications involve any educational broadcasting
2 facility.

3 (b) The commission may

4 (1) where no other competent contracting agency exists,
5 lease, purchase, construct, own, operate, manage and be the licensee
6 of educational broadcasting stations, production centers, and all
7 other related equipment and facilities necessary to provide fully
8 effective educational broadcasting in the state;

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

12 (3) provide a system of subsidies and grants-in-aid to
13 commercial broadcast stations or companies operating or licensed in the
14 state for the broadcast of not more than 200 hours by each station in
15 a fiscal year of network news, reports or public affairs programming.

16 Sec. 44.19.611. ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS OF THE COMMISSION. The
17 commission may

18 (1) employ all consultative, technical and clerical person-
19 nel necessary for the implementation of secs. 581 - 626 of this chapter,
20 within the limits of available funds;

21 (2) employ a director, who shall be directly responsible to
22 the commission in financial and administrative matters;

23 (3) appoint unpaid advisory committees to assist in develop-
24 ment of programs for educational and public television broadcasts;

25 (4) adopt regulations necessary to carry out the powers and
26 duties of the commission.

27 Sec. 44.19.616. COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING. Nothing in secs. 581 -
28 626 of this chapter may be construed to restrict or control commercial
29 broadcast stations or companies operating or licensed in the state.

1 Sec. 44.19.621. UTILITIES REGULATION. Nothing in secs. 581 -
2 626 of this chapter may be construed to exempt or supersede regulatory
3 jurisdiction as established in AS 42.05.

4 Sec. 44.19.626. DEFINITIONS. In secs. 581 - 626 of this chapter

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

6 (2) "educational broadcasting" means noncommercial trans-
7 mission, programming or distribution intended to serve an educational,
8 public or instructional purpose and includes, but is not limited to,
9 television and radio transmission by 2,500 to 2,690 megahertz, closed
10 circuit or microwave video and audio programming, slow-scan television
11 programming, and satellite, teletype or facsimile transmission and
12 distribution methods;

13 (3) "telecommunications" means the transmission and recep-
14 tion of messages, impressions, pictures and signals by means of
15 electricity, electromagnetic waves and any other kind of energy, force
16 variations or impulses whether conveyed by cable, wire, radiated through
17 space, or transmitted through other media within a specified area or
18 between designated points.

19 * Sec. 3. AS 14.58 is repealed.
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