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Referred: State Affairs and  
Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE BY MILLER, GARDINER AND SPECKING

2 *SCSCS* HOUSE BILL NO. 528 *(Fin) am re-engrossed*  
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA *(Yin.)*

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act creating advisory committees to the division of  
7 marine transportation in the Department of Public Works;  
8 and providing for an effective date."

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

10 \* Section 1. AS 19 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

11 CHAPTER 65. ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

12 Sec. 19.65.010. ADVISORY COMMITTEES CREATED. (a) There are  
13 created in the Department of Public Works, division of marine transporta-  
14 tion, advisory committees consisting of members of the traveling public  
15 in Alaska and residents of the communities served, as well as commercial  
16 users of the state ferry system and representatives of the tourism  
17 industry in the state.

18 (b) There is an Alaska Marine Highway Advisory Committee for South-  
19 eastern Alaska and an Alaska Marine Highway Advisory Committee for South-  
20 central Alaska (Prince William Sound-Cook Inlet-Kodiak). When state  
21 ferry services are extended to western Alaska, the Aleutian Islands, or  
22 along the river basin system of interior Alaska, an advisory committee  
23 or committees shall be established by the department in those areas and  
24 the members shall be appointed in the manner prescribed in sec. 20 of  
25 this chapter.

26 Sec. 19.65.020. MEMBERSHIP. (a) Each advisory committee consists  
27 of

28 (1) three persons appointed by the governor who are broadly  
29 representative of the traveling public in the state and the residents of

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HB 528

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1 the communities served by the state ferry system;

2 (2) two persons appointed by the governor who are shippers  
3 aboard or commercial users of state ferry services, including one repre-  
4 sentative of the tourism industry in the state;

5 (3) two members of the legislature, one each appointed by the  
6 president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives.

7 (b) The commissioner of public works, the director of the division  
8 of marine transportation, and the director of the division of tourism  
9 in the Department of Economic Development or a comparable agency located  
10 elsewhere in the executive branch of state government, or their  
11 designees, shall be ex officio members of each advisory committee, but  
12 without a vote.

13 Sec. 19.65.030. TERM OF OFFICE; VACANCIES. (a) The members of  
14 each advisory committee appointed by the governor shall serve at his  
15 pleasure for four-year staggered terms, or until their successors are  
16 appointed and qualify. One initial gubernatorial appointee shall serve  
17 for one year, one for two years, one for three years and two for four  
18 years; however, one four-year term shall be assigned to a public member  
19 and one to a commercial user member.

20 (b) Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as original  
21 appointment.

22 Sec. 19.65.040. OFFICERS. The chairman and vice chairman of each  
23 advisory committee shall be elected from among the members of the commit-  
24 tee appointed by the governor.

25 Sec. 19.65.050. MEETINGS; RULES OF PROCEDURE. (a) Each advisory  
26 committee shall prescribe its own rules of procedure. The committee  
27 shall meet at least once quarterly at a time and place determined by the  
28 chairman, or at other times and places as the chairman or a majority of  
29 the members of the committee consider necessary. A quorum is a majority

1 of the committee members. The votes of the committee members shall be  
2 recorded, and effective action requires the affirmative vote of a major-  
3 ity of the committee members present. No committee member may, with  
4 respect to a matter before the committee, vote for or on behalf of, or in  
5 any way exercise the vote of, another member of the committee.

6 (b) The committees shall meet either in the communities served by  
7 the state ferry system, aboard the vessels of the state ferry system, or  
8 at other places in the state to enable them to serve as an effective  
9 communications link between the public and the division of marine trans-  
10 portation, affording that public an opportunity to express its views con-  
11 cerning the planning, operation, management and expansion of state ferry  
12 services.

13 Sec. 19.65.060. FUNCTIONS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEES. An advisory  
14 committee shall review and make recommendations

15 (1) concerning the program budget for the operation of the  
16 division in the area served by the advisory committee for each fiscal  
17 year before it is submitted to the department or to the governor under  
18 the Executive Budget Act (AS 37.07);

19 (2) concerning the schedule of tariffs and other charges for  
20 services provided by the division;

21 (3) relating to the policies, practices, procedures, general  
22 operation and management of the state ferry system, including but not  
23 limited to

24 (A) planning for, and review of, the routes, types of  
25 services and facilities the division should provide to meet the  
26 needs of the traveling or using public;

27 (B) the level of staffing and funding for these programs,  
28 activities, services or facilities;

29 (C) the relationship of state ferry services to tourism

1 in the state and to other transportation services provided by the  
2 state or the publicly regulated private sector of the transporta-  
3 tion industry;

4 (4) concerning any capital improvement projects and the means  
5 of managing and financing them, including both vessels and shore facili-  
6 ties, and their relationship to other transportation services and  
7 facilities; and

8 (5) concerning the naming of ferry vessels.

9 Sec. 19.65.070. ANNUAL REPORT. Each advisory committee shall make  
10 an annual report to the governor, commissioner, director and to the  
11 legislature and the public concerning its activities, findings and re-  
12 commendations. The report shall be submitted not later than 10 days  
13 after the convening of each regular session of the legislature.

14 Sec. 19.65.080. COMPENSATION. Members of each advisory committee  
15 serve without compensation but are entitled to per diem and travel  
16 expenses as may be authorized by law for boards and commissions.

17 Sec. 19.65.090. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter

18 (1) "advisory committee" or "committee" means an Alaska Marine  
19 Highway Advisory Committee created under sec. 10 of this chapter;

20 (2) "commissioner" means the commissioner of public works;

21 (3) "department" means the Department of Public Works;

22 (4) "director" means the director of the division of marine  
23 transportation; and

24 (5) "division" means the division of marine transportation.

25 \* Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.10.-

26 070(c).