

Introduced: 1/31/75  
Referred: Health, Education  
and Social Services and  
Finance

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST  
OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON THE  
UNORGANIZED BOROUGH

1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE BILL NO. 115

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act creating the Department of Telecommunications."

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

8 \* Section 1. AS 44 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

9 CHAPTER 48. DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

10 Sec. 44.48.010. COMMISSIONER OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS. The principal  
11 executive officer of the Department of Telecommunications is the com-  
12 missioner of telecommunications.

13 Sec. 44.48.020. GENERAL DUTIES AND POWERS OF DEPARTMENT. (a) The  
14 department shall

15 (1) incorporate the division of communications of the Depart-  
16 ment of Public Works and the Alaska Educational Broadcasting Commission  
17 as they presently function;

18 (2) design and implement a statewide program to coordinate  
19 telecommunications;

20 (3) oversee the purchase, installation, maintenance, and  
21 use of communications equipment by state agencies, vessels, docks,  
22 aircraft, airports, and vehicles;

23 (4) in the absence of commercial service, provide for village  
24 communications networks which are available for use by state-operated  
25 rural schools and state health services;

26 (5) design and implement, immediately after passage of this  
27 Act, a statewide emergency communications system;

28 (6) represent the state before the Federal Communications  
29 Commission and represent consumers before the Alaska Public Utilities

1 Commission and the Federal Communications Commission;

2 (7) receive and investigate complaints concerning tele-  
3 communications in the state;

4 (8) cooperate with national and international organizations  
5 in developing satellite communications policy on national and inter-  
6 national levels;

7 (9) apply for funding available from the federal government  
8 and private sources to aid in implementing the purposes of this chapter;

9 (10) coordinate production and broadcasting of public service  
10 programming among state agencies;

11 (11) advise the governor on policy matters concerning com-  
12 munications in the state;

13 (12) offer engineering, technical, policy making, and staff  
14 support to the Alaska Public Utilities Commission as may be required  
15 by that commission in the performance of its regulatory functions;

16 (13) appoint advisory committees including but not limited  
17 to

18 (A) the existing telecommunications advisory commission  
19 to the Alaska Educational Broadcasting Commission;

20 (B) a software committee of citizens and educators;

21 (C) a committee of all general managers of public  
22 broadcasting stations in the state;

23 (14) promote and support experimental projects that utilize  
24 new programming and hardware techniques.

25 (b) The department may

26 (1) purchase, construct, and operate communications systems  
27 for use by state agencies;

28 (2) adopt regulations necessary for the performance of its  
29 duties.

1           Sec. 44.48.030. DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE DEPARTMENT WITH RESPECT  
2 TO EDUCATIONAL AND PUBLIC BROADCASTING. (a) The department shall

3                   (1) coordinate the use of broadcasting frequencies reserved  
4 by the Federal Communications Commission for educational and public  
5 broadcasting purposes;

6                   (2) review on behalf of the state applications for public  
7 broadcasting licenses submitted to the Federal Communications Commis-  
8 sion;

9                   (3) offer assistance to public broadcasting stations;

10                   (4) work with the Department of Education to establish a  
11 statewide media services library to purchase, catalogue and dispense  
12 educational and public interest programming; and

13                   (5) develop a delivery system for video instructional pro-  
14 gramming for all public school children in the state.

15                   (b) The department may operate public broadcasting stations in  
16 areas where there are no licensed public broadcasting stations.

17           Sec. 44.48.040. COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING STATIONS NOT COVERED.  
18 Commercial broadcasting companies and stations do not come under the  
19 coverage of this chapter.  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29