

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

1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE BILL NO. 117

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 Public Communications Commission."

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

8 \* Section 1. AS 44.19 is amended by adding new sections to read:

9 ARTICLE 8. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

10 Sec. 44.19.581. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION. There is  
11 established in the Office of the Governor the Public Communications  
12 Commission.

13 Sec. 44.19.586. MEMBERSHIP AND TERM OF OFFICE. (a) The commis-  
14 sion consists of seven members appointed by the governor without regard  
15 to political affiliation, and subject to confirmation by a majority  
16 of the members of the legislature in joint session. There shall be at  
17 least one member of the commission from each of the geographical regions  
18 of the state.

19 (b) Members may be removed only for cause determined by concur-  
20 ence of two-thirds of the legislature in joint session.

21 (c) Members serve staggered terms of four year, with the initial  
22 terms determined by lot.

23 Sec. 44.19.591. COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES. Members of the com-  
24 mission receive no salary, but are entitled to \$100 per diem, and travel  
25 expenses.

26 Sec. 44.19.596. MEETINGS, CHAIRMAN. The commission shall meet at  
27 least four times each year. The commission shall annually elect a  
28 chairperson from its members.

29 Sec. 44.48.601. POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMISSION. (a) The

1 commission shall

2 (1) design and implement a statewide program to coordinate  
3 telecommunications;

4 (2) represent the state before the Federal Communications  
5 Commission; and represent consumers before the Federal Communications  
6 Commission and the Alaska Public Utilities Commission;

7 (3) be informed of local, national, and international  
8 developments in telecommunications, and advise the governor on their  
9 potential impact;

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

12 (5) design and implement, immediately after the passage of  
13 this Act, a statewide emergency communications system;

14 (6) cooperate with national and international organizations  
15 in developing satellite communications policy on national and inter-  
16 national levels.

17 (b) The commission may

18 (1) with concurrence of the governor and legislature, nego-  
19 tiate for the purchase or contracting for communications systems to  
20 benefit the people of the state;

21 (2) apply for funding available from the federal government  
22 and from private sources to aid in implementing the purposes of this  
23 chapter;

24 (3) apply to the federal government for approval to construct  
25 and operate a telecommunications system for state use; and

26 (4) appoint unpaid advisory committees, which may include

27 (A) the existing telecommunications advisory commission  
28 to the Alaska Educational Broadcasting Commission;

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

1 (C) a committee of all general managers of public  
2 broadcasting stations in the state.

3 Sec. 44.48.606. DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL  
4 AND PUBLIC BROADCASTING. (a) The commission shall

5 (1) develop a delivery system for video instructional  
6 programming for all public school children in the state;

7 (2) work with the Department of Education to establish a  
8 statewide media services library to purchase, catalogue, and dispense  
9 educational and public interest programming;

10 (3) review on behalf of the state, applications for public  
11 broadcasting licenses submitted to the Federal Communications Commission;

12 (4) offer assistance to public broadcasting stations in  
13 developing programming to meet local needs; and

14 (5) assist in instructing teachers and public broadcasters  
15 in utilization of telecommunications equipment.

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

18 Sec. 44.48.611. ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS OF COMMISSION. The com-  
19 mission may

20 (1) employ all technical and clerical personnel necessary  
21 for the implementation of secs. 581 - 616 of this chapter, within the  
22 limits of available funds;

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

25 (3) adopt regulations necessary to carry out the purpose of  
26 this chapter.

27 Sec. 44.48.616. COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING STATIONS NOT COVERED.  
28 Nothing in this chapter may be construed to restrict or control commer-  
29 cial broadcasting companies or stations in the state.