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Referred: State Affairs and  
Finance

1 IN THE SENATE

BY FERGUSON AND SACKETT

2 SENATE BILL NO. 194

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 Transportation; and  
7 providing for an effective date."

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

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

10 CHAPTER 42. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

11 Sec. 44.42.010. COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION. The principal  
12 executive officer of the Department of Transportation is the commissioner  
13 of transportation.

14 Sec. 44.42.020. POWERS AND DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT. The department  
15 shall:

16 (1) coordinate and develop comprehensive, balanced transpor-  
17 tation policy and planning to include a long-range transportation master  
18 plan for the state;

19 (2) coordinate, develop and operate a modern, safe and  
20 efficient system of highway, mass transit, marine and aviation facilities  
21 and services;

22 (3) promote and coordinate the efficient use of all available  
23 and future modes of transportation;

24 (4) study commuter and urban travel and, in cooperation with  
25 federal, regional and local agencies and persons, formulate and implement  
26 plans and programs to improve urban travel;

27 (5) study means of providing facilities for parking motor  
28 vehicles so as to encourage travel by the combination of motor vehicles  
29 and other modes of transportation and, in cooperation with federal,

1 regional and local agencies and persons, formulate and implement plans  
2 and programs for this purpose;

3 (6) study means of improving transportation safety and for-  
4 mulate and implement plans and programs and promulgate regulations for  
5 this purpose;

6 (7) study the operations of existing airports, determine the  
7 need for changes for those airports and the need for future airports,  
8 and formulate and implement plans and programs to improve aviation faci-  
9 lities and services;

10 (8) cooperate with federal, state and local agencies, organi-  
11 zations, and persons performing activities relating to transportation;

12 (9) construct, maintain, and operate state highways, roads,  
13 bridges, traffic signs and signals, ferries, airports, docks, floats,  
14 breakwaters, railroads and all other state transportation facilities.

15 Sec. 44.42.030. DEPARTMENTAL ORGANIZATION. The commissioner shall  
16 organize the department into the following operating divisions:

17 (1) division of administration;

18 (2) division of planning and research;

19 (3) division of highways;

20 (4) division of rail and transit;

21 (5) division of aviation;

22 (6) division of marine transportation;

23 (7) division of harbors.

24 Sec. 44.42.040. LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN. (a) The  
25 commissioner shall develop a comprehensive long-range transportation  
26 master plan. The planning shall consider all available and future modes  
27 of transportation including, but not limited to, transportation by  
28 highway, air, water and rail. The plan shall be designed to fulfill the  
29 present and future needs of the state and assure development and main-

1 tenance of adequate, modern, safe and efficient transportation facilities  
2 and services.

3 (b) In developing and revising the plan the commissioner may:

4 (1) conduct public hearings;

5 (2) consult and cooperate with officials and representatives  
6 of the federal government, Canada, other states, federal interstate  
7 commissions and authorities, local agencies and authorities, interested  
8 corporations and other organizations concerning problems affecting trans-  
9 portation in the state;

10 (3) request and receive from any agency or other unit of state  
11 government or of any political subdivision of it, or from any public  
12 authority, the assistance and data that may be necessary to enable the  
13 commissioner to carry out his responsibilities under this section; and

14 (4) to the extent he may consider necessary, make use of and  
15 incorporate in the plan any existing long-range transportation plan,  
16 survey or report developed by a public or private agency or person.

17 (c) Copies of the plan, as revised, shall be kept on file as a  
18 public document in the office of the commissioner.

19 Sec. 44.42.050. STUDY OF EXISTING TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES. (a)  
20 Before September 1 of each year, the commissioner shall conduct and  
21 complete an investigation and report on the several modes of transporta-  
22 tion in the state, in which he shall evaluate the adequacy of the  
23 facilities and services connected with each mode, and shall determine the  
24 needs of the state transportation system.

25 (b) The commissioner may engage in experimental projects relating  
26 to an available or future mode of transportation including, but not  
27 limited to, high speed rail service, the development of heliports and  
28 hovercraft service and any means of improving existing transportation  
29 facilities and service.

1           Sec. 44.42.060. GRANTS TO THE DEPARTMENT. The commissioner may  
2 apply for and accept on behalf of the state grants from the federal  
3 government or an agency of it or from a foundation, corporation,  
4 association or individual, for any of the functions or purposes of the  
5 department, and, when authorized by a budget amendment approved by  
6 the governor and the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee, may expend  
7 the money so received to effect these functions and purposes.

8           Sec. 44.42.070. LIMITATION ON TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES. (a)  
9 The department shall consult with the appropriate officials in the  
10 Departments of Fish and Game, Health and Social Services, Natural  
11 Resources and Environmental Conservation regarding the environmental  
12 hazards and the conservation, sanitation, recreation and social con-  
13 siderations that may arise by reason of the location, design, construc-  
14 tion or reconstruction of a transportation facility.

15           (b) No highway, transit line, highway interchange, airport or  
16 other transportation corridor or facility may be built or expanded in  
17 such a way as to use the land from a recreation area, historic site,  
18 state park, state forest, state critical habitat area, state game  
19 sanctuary or refuge, or state wilderness park unless (1) there is no  
20 feasible and prudent alternative to the use of that land; and (2) the  
21 corridor or facility is planned and constructed so as to minimize  
22 environmental impact to the land.

23           Sec. 44.42.080. ANNUAL REPORT. The commissioner shall submit to  
24 the governor and the legislature an annual report on or before  
25 January 1 of each year. The report shall include the recommendations  
26 of the commissioner for legislation necessary to develop and maintain  
27 a modern, efficient and well-balanced transportation system.

28 \* Sec. 2. AS 44.15.010 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

29           (18) Department of Transportation

1 \* Sec. 3. TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS. (a) The Department of Transportation  
2 is hereby vested with the duties, powers and responsibilities formerly  
3 exercised and held by

4 (1) the Department of Highways;

5 (2) the Commission for Northern Operations of Rail Transportation  
6 and Highways;

7 (3) the Department of Public Works in respect to construction,  
8 maintenance and operation of state ferries, airports, docks, floats, break-  
9 waters and similar facilities.

10 (b) The following divisions are transferred as indicated:

11 (1) the division of buildings, Department of Public Works, is  
12 transferred to the Department of Administration;

13 (2) the division of communications, Department of Public Works,  
14 is transferred to the Department of Public Safety.

15 (c) Appropriations, records, equipment and other property of depart-  
16 ments, divisions and agencies of the state designated in (a) of this section  
17 are transferred to the department.

18 (d) This section does not abate or otherwise affect an action or pro-  
19 ceeding, civil or criminal, brought by or against a department, division,  
20 agency, or commission designated in (a) of this section and pending on  
21 January 1, 1974. Such actions or proceedings may be maintained in the same  
22 manner as if the section had not taken effect.

23 (e) All applications, petitions, hearings and other proceedings pending  
24 on December 31, 1973 before a department, division, agency or commission  
25 designated in (a) of this section shall be continued and determined by the  
26 affected body.

27 (f) Appropriations and other money available to and to become available  
28 to a department, division, agency or commission the functions, powers and  
29 duties of which have been transferred to the department established under

1 this Act, or to any other department to which has been transferred additional  
2 functions, shall be available for the objects and purposes for which appro-  
3 priated or otherwise made available, subject to terms, restrictions, limita-  
4 tions or other requirements imposed under this section or other state or  
5 federal law.

6 (g) Regulations, rules, orders, or other acts in effect with respect  
7 to a department, division, agency or commission transferred to the depart-  
8 ment under this section shall continue in full force and effect until amended,  
9 modified, repealed or rescinded as the commissioner determines in accordance  
10 with law. Existing contracts made by a department, division or agency trans-  
11 ferred to the department under this Act remain in effect according to the  
12 terms of the contracts.

13 (h) The powers, duties and functions transferred to the department  
14 under this section are in addition to, and not derogated by, the powers,  
15 duties and functions otherwise vested in the department under this Act.

16 (i) The following statutes are modified to the extent necessary to  
17 bring them into conformity with this section: AS 02.10 - 02.35; AS 19;  
18 AS 28.05; AS 35; AS 36; AS 39; AS 41; AS 44.15; AS 44.19.410, 44.19.820; and  
19 AS 44.57.

20 \* Sec. 4. AS 44.15.010(13) and (15); AS 44.19.700 - 44.19.714; AS 44.43;  
21 and AS 44.44 are repealed.

22 \* Sec. 5. This Act takes effect on January 1, 1976.  
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