

Introduced: 3/25/77
Referred: Commerce and
Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MCKINNON AND SWANSON

CS HOUSE BILL NO. 399

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act creating a special utility consumer counsel;
7 and providing for an effective date."

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

9 * Section 1. AS 44.23 is amended by adding a new section to read:

10 Sec. 44.23.070. PUBLIC UTILITY CONSUMER COUNSEL. (a) Within the
11 Department of Law is the office of the public utility consumer counsel.

12 (b) The office of the public utility consumer counsel consists of
13 at least one assistant attorney general appointed by the attorney
14 general who is admitted to the practice of law in the state, familiar
15 with public utility regulation, and experienced in practice before
16 public utility regulatory commissions.

17 (c) The Department of Law shall set out separately the expenses of
18 the office of the public utility consumer counsel as an independent sub-
19 program or element of the Department of Law budget, which shall be
20 submitted by the governor in accordance with the Executive Budget Act
21 (AS 37.07) as part of his annual budget presentation to the legislature.
22 The funds budgeted shall include sufficient allowances for expert wit-
23 ness fees and other costs of participating in regulatory proceedings to
24 allow the office to operate effectively in representing the consumer of
25 services of a public utility.

26 (d) The public utility consumer counsel may

27 (1) intervene as a party or otherwise participate in a hear-
28 ing or other procedure before a utility regulatory agency for the
29 purpose of representing the interest of utility consumers in the

1 proceeding whenever he determines that the result of a proceeding may
2 substantially affect the interests of utility consumers;

3 (2) maintain actions for judicial review of utility regula-
4 tory agency decisions and may intervene or otherwise participate in
5 civil proceedings involving review or enforcement of agency action which
6 he determines may substantially affect the interests of consumers;

7 (3) select and contract for the services of technically
8 qualified persons in the area of public utility matters to assist him in
9 the preparation and presentation of matters before regulatory agencies
10 and the courts.

11 (e) The public utility consumer counsel shall submit to the
12 legislature an annual report of the activities of his office. The
13 report shall be submitted on or before the first day of the legislative
14 session.

15 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect July 1, 1977.