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Referred: State Affairs and  
Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY  
REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

2 *425* HOUSE BILL NO. 722 *AMS*

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to science and technology."

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 4. ALASKA COUNCIL ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

10 Sec. 44.19.181. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds  
11 that:

12 (1) There exist in this state scientific and technological  
13 research capabilities which have the potential to contribute signi-  
14 ficantly to the processes of state government, to industry, and the  
15 public welfare.

16 (2) The scientific and technological capabilities of the  
17 state should be available to assist in issue analysis and fact-finding  
18 necessary for governmental policy-making activities; however, adequate  
19 mechanisms have not been developed in Alaska either to articulate the  
20 informational needs of policy makers to the research community or to  
21 use the existing resources available from the public, the academic  
22 community, and the private sector.

23 (3) Expenditures on science and technology are not adequate-  
24 ly coordinated in the state to achieve the highest and best use of  
25 research dollars.

26 (4) There are gains to be realized by establishing a co-  
27 ordinating and funding mechanism between those who formulate and  
28 administer state policy and the Alaska scientific and technological  
29 community for the purpose of assuring the availability of more and

1 better information for future issue analysis and formulation and exe-  
2 cution of policy.

3 Sec. 44.19.191. COUNCIL ESTABLISHED. (a) There is established  
4 in the Office of the Governor the Alaska Council on Science and Tech-  
5 nology. The council consists of the seven members who are appointed by  
6 and serve at the pleasure of the governor. Members have overlapping  
7 three-year terms, except that, of the first members, two have terms of  
8 one year, two have terms of two years, and three have terms of three  
9 years. Two members must be selected from executive departments of  
10 state government, two members must be selected from the Alaska aca-  
11 demic community, two members must be selected from the public-at-  
12 large, and one member must be selected from the staff of the legis-  
13 lature. The governor shall annually designate one of the members  
14 chairman. A chairman may be designated for successive terms as chair-  
15 man and serves until his successor is designated. Four members  
16 constitute a quorum.

17 (b) Council members receive no compensation but are entitled to  
18 the travel and per diem provided by law for members of boards or com-  
19 missions.

20 Sec. 44.19.201. PURPOSE, POWERS, AND DUTIES (a) The purpose of  
21 the council is to review, determine, and set priorities for the  
22 scientific and technological research needs of state government, to  
23 issue research grants and contracts, to oversee the issued grants and  
24 contracts, to promote high standards of research for the priorities  
25 established by the council, and to address stated legislative or  
26 administrative requests for research.

27 (b) The council may:

28 (1) apprise itself of local, state, federal, and private  
29 research programs, activities, and needs;

1 (2) convene committees, task forces, conferences, public  
2 hearings, and other meetings necessary to carry out the council's  
3 purposes;

4 (3) award research grants and contracts on a fair and  
5 competitive basis and administer those grants and contracts;

6 (4) enter into agreements creating one or more systems of  
7 information exchange with any appropriate research funding sources;

8 (5) at the request of any state agency, enter into and ad-  
9 minister, but not perform the research under, research grants and  
10 contracts funded by that state agency;

11 (6) investigate the need for and establish advisory com-  
12 mittees necessary for reviewing its program;

13 (7) request and receive from any agency of the state govern-  
14 ment the assistance and data needed to carry out the requirements of  
15 this section;

16 (8) hire an executive director and staff that may be neces-  
17 sary to implement secs. 181 - 221 of this chapter; and

18 (9) do all other things necessary or desirable to fulfill  
19 the purposes of this chapter.

20 (c) The council shall:

21 (1) develop methods of surveying and determining research  
22 needs of the state, based on the present and future information needs  
23 of policy makers, state agencies, and the public at large;

24 (2) annually rank the research needs and recommend the  
25 expenditure to be allocated to each;

26 (3) annually submit to the governor and the legislature the  
27 findings of the council, including a listing, description, ranking,  
28 and justification of research needs;

29 (4) promote and enhance standards for research activities

1 for which the council has administrative oversight;

2 (5) award and administer research grants and contracts to  
3 address those priorities which are funded by the legislature;

4 (6) at the request of either the governor or the legis-  
5 lative council, advise in a timely fashion on inquiries concerning  
6 scientific investigation or comment;

7 (7) evaluate and forward to appropriate agencies and persons  
8 products of research activities funded by the council; the council  
9 shall prepare comments to accompany research reports summarizing the  
10 applications, importance, or further research needs demonstrated by  
11 the findings of council-supported research;

12 (8) coordinate its data and information needs with other  
13 research organizations in order to avoid unnecessary duplication; and

14 (9) not conduct any research itself other than that neces-  
15 sary to further the purpose of the council as provided in (a) of this  
16 section.

17 Sec. 44.19.211. RECORDS, REPORTS. (a) The council shall have  
18 its financial records audited by an independent certified public  
19 accountant. The internal auditor and legislative auditor shall  
20 jointly prescribe the form and content of the financial records of the  
21 council and shall be afforded access to these records at any time.

22 (b) Before January 15 of each year, the council shall submit to  
23 the governor and the legislature a comprehensive report describing  
24 operations and expenditures and the status of grants and contracts for  
25 the last preceding fiscal year.

26 (c) The provisions of AS 09.25.110 - 09.25.120 apply to the  
27 council.

28 Sec. 44.19.221. TITLE. Sections 181 - 221 of this chapter may  
29 be cited as the Science and Technology Act.