

Original sponsor: Rules Committee by
request of the Governor

Offered: 4/4/78
Referred: Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 722

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 that

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

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

22 (3) expenditures on science and technology are not adequately
23 coordinated in the state to achieve the highest and best use of research
24 dollars;

25 (4) there are gains to be realized by establishing a co-
26 ordinating and funding mechanism between those who formulate and ad-
27 minister state policy and the Alaska scientific and technological com-
28 munity for the purpose of assuring the availability of more and better
29 information for future issue analysis and formulation and execution of

1 policy.

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

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

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

25 (b) The council may

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

28 (2) convene committees, task forces, conferences, public
29 hearings, and other meetings necessary to carry out the council's pur-

1 poses;

2 (3) award research grants and contracts on a fair and com-
3 petitive basis and administer those grants and contracts;

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 (c) The council shall

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

22 (2) annually rank the research needs and recommend the ex-
23 penditure to be allocated to each;

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

27 (4) promote and enhance standards for research activities for
28 which the council has administrative oversight;

29 (5) award and administer research grants and contracts to

1 address those priorities which are funded by the legislature;

2 (6) at the request of either the governor or the legislative
3 council, advise in a timely fashion on inquiries concerning scientific
4 investigation or comment;

5 (7) evaluate and forward to appropriate agencies and persons
6 products of research activities funded by the council; the council shall
7 prepare comments to accompany research reports summarizing the applica-
8 tions, importance, or further research needs demonstrated by the find-
9 ings of council-supported research;

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

12 (9) not conduct any research itself other than that necessary
13 to further the purpose of the council as provided in (a) of this sec-
14 tion;

15 (10) supply to any person or agency requesting assistance the
16 available information on past or present research activities for which
17 the council has information, except that the council shall not release
18 information which may endanger the acceptance of any research proposal
19 which is at the time competing with other proposals for funding.

20 Sec. 44.19.211. STATE-FUNDED RESEARCH. For the purpose of coordi-
21 nating scientific and technological research, state money may not be
22 spent for research projects unless, before commencing the research, the
23 agency or person responsible for conducting the research submits to the
24 council for its review and comment a scope-of-work proposal covering the
25 research project. The council shall have 30 days after receipt of the
26 proposal to provide its comments. If the council does not respond
27 within 30 days, the state money may be made available for the research
28 project.

29 Sec. 44.19.221. RECORDS, REPORTS. (a) The council shall have its

1 financial records audited by an independent certified public accountant.
2 The internal auditor and legislative auditor shall jointly prescribe the
3 form and content of the financial records of the council and shall be
4 afforded access to these records at any time.

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

9 (c) The provisions of AS 09.25.110 - 09.25.120 apply to the coun-
10 cil.

11 Sec. 44.19.231. DEFINITION. In secs. 181 - 231 of this chapter,
12 "council" means the Alaska Council on Science and Technology established
13 in sec. 191 of this chapter.

14 Sec. 44.19.241. TITLE. Sections 181 - 221 of this chapter may be
15 cited as the Science and Technology Act.