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Referred: Resources and
Finance

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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 71

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to Alaska's land and resources; and
7 providing for an effective date."

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

9 * Section 1. AS 38.95 is amended by adding new sections to read:

10 Sec. 38.95.111. STEERING COUNCIL REESTABLISHED. The steering
11 council for Alaska lands created by AS 38.95.110 and repealed by this
12 Act is reestablished for the purposes set out in this chapter.

13 Sec. 38.95.121. MEMBERSHIP. (a) The council consists of 21
14 members. The members of Alaska's delegation in Congress are ex officio
15 members of the council, but each may appoint a representative to serve
16 in his place. One member shall be appointed by the governor of the
17 state. The steering council for Alaska lands shall appoint two of its
18 members. The remaining members shall be appointed by and from the
19 governing bodies of each of the following organizations in the number
20 set out after each:

21 (1) Citizens for the Management of Alaska's Lands -- three
22 members;

23 (2) Organization for the Management of Alaska's Resources --
24 two members;

25 (3) The Real Alaska Coalition -- two members;

26 (4) The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce -- two members;

27 (5) Alaska Loggers Association -- one member;

28 (6) Alaska Oil and Gas Association -- one member;

29 (7) Alaska Miners Association -- one member;

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- (8) Alaska Professional Hunters Association -- one member;
- (9) Alaska Fur Trappers Association -- one member;
- (10) Alaskans Unite -- one member.

(b) Members selected under (a) of this section serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority, except that in the event of a vacancy among members appointed by and from the membership of the steering council for Alaska lands, a new member shall be appointed by majority vote of the members of the council established in (a) of this section.

(c) Each member appointed under (a) of this section shall have a designated alternate, who may act in place of the member in the member's absence from any meeting of the council.

Sec. 38.95.131. ORGANIZATION. Within 20 days after the effective date of this Act, the members selected in accordance with AS 38.95.121 shall convene at a mutually convenient time and place. They shall elect a chairman, vice-chairman, and other officers as they consider necessary.

Sec. 38.95.141. DUTIES. The council shall

(1) develop and define a unified position conducive to settlement of Alaska land and resources issues through congressional action, with repeal of the federal land withdrawals recently imposed by the executive branch of the federal government and the securing of land selection rights of the state under the Statehood Act as principal objectives of that position, and work to maximize the state's ability to determine the use of federal land in Alaska;

(2) prepare and implement a unified lobbying and informational effort to assure that the rights of the state and its people in the ownership, development and management of the resources of the state are not compromised or sacrificed through federal land withdrawals by action of the President or Congress; and

1 (3) make recommendations to public officials for action in
2 furtherance of the position defined in (1) of this section.

3 Sec. 38.95.151. POWERS. To accomplish its purposes, the council
4 may

5 (1) hire an administrative director and additional staff and
6 retain office space in Alaska and Washington, D.C. as may be necessary
7 to the council's functions;

8 (2) contract for the services of legal counsel and consul-
9 tants or other experts to carry out the purposes of AS 38.95.111 -
10 38.95.181;

11 (3) act as a clearinghouse and coordinating body for informa-
12 tion relating to Alaska's land and resources;

13 (4) cooperate with public and private agencies in joint
14 efforts to resolve problems and make recommendations with respect to
15 Alaska's land and resources;

16 (5) publish the results of its research and efforts;

17 (6) inform Alaskans, by news release, public hearings and
18 workshops, and other means generally available to disseminate informa-
19 tion, of its activities;

20 (7) establish task forces composed of council members and
21 other experts, as necessary;

22 (8) initiate litigation in the name of the council; the
23 authority to enter into litigation granted in this paragraph is separate
24 from and in addition to the authority granted under AS 44.23.020;

25 (9) contract for the services of individuals and organiza-
26 tions for the purpose of making presentations before Congress, the
27 executive branch of the federal government, and the general public
28 outside Alaska to present the position of the council with respect to
29 Alaska's land and resources.

1 Sec. 38.95.161. MEETINGS AND QUORUM. The council shall meet at
2 the call of the chairman, at the request of the majority of its members,
3 or at a regularly scheduled time as determined by a majority of its
4 members.

5 (b) Eleven members of the council constitute a quorum for the
6 conduct of the business of the council. No action of the council is
7 effective unless approved by at least eleven members present at a
8 council meeting.

9 Sec. 38.95.171. COMPENSATION. Members of the council receive the
10 same travel pay and per diem as provided by law for boards and commis-
11 sions.

12 Sec. 38.95.181. LIMITATION ON EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS. No funds may
13 be expended by the council for lobbying and informational purposes under
14 AS 38.95.141(2) until the council has first defined a unified position
15 as required by AS 38.95.141(1). An individual or organization receiving
16 funds from the council may utilize the financial support provided only
17 to influence the position defined by the council. Support of the
18 council's position shall be made a condition of every contract or agree-
19 ment for financial support entered into by the council.

20 * Sec. 2. STEERING COUNCIL FOR ALASKA LANDS. AS 38.95.110, 38.95.120,
21 38.95.130 and 38.95.140 are repealed.

22 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-
23 10.070(c).