

Original sponsor: Rules/Governor

Offered: 3/11/80  
Referred: Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 413

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to establishment of the Alaska State  
7 Climate Center and a state weather and climate pro-  
8 gram."

9

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

10

\* Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds that:

11

(1) weather and climate changes affect all of man's activities and  
12 general welfare;

13

(2) an understanding of weather and climate patterns is essential  
14 to food and energy production, construction, natural resource development and  
15 management, determinations of land use, community development, transportation,  
16 communications, use of water resources, and the well-being of the people of  
17 Alaska;

18

(3) programs of basic and applied climatic research are important  
19 functions of several University of Alaska institutes and centers, including  
20 the Agricultural Experiment Station; the Arctic Environmental Information and  
21 Data Center; the Geophysical Institute; the Institutes of Arctic Biology,  
22 Marine Science, and Water Resources; and the Alaska Sea Grant Program;

23

(4) weather and climate information is essential to the programs  
24 of several agencies, particularly the Departments of Commerce and Economic  
25 Development, Environmental Conservation, Fish and Game, Natural Resources,  
26 Public Safety, and Transportation and Public Facilities;

27

(5) the National Climate Program Act, 15 U.S.C. 2901 - 2908,  
28 provides for the establishment of a program for federal and state cooperative  
29 activities in climate studies and advisory services, and for annual grants to

1 states for these activities if the state has adopted a state climate program  
2 in accordance with the provisions of the National Climate Program Act;

3 (6) the Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center presently  
4 provides climatological services for the state under agreement between the  
5 University of Alaska and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;  
6 and

7 (7) by virtue of the National Climate Program Act, it would be  
8 highly beneficial for the State of Alaska to establish a state weather and  
9 climate program to recognize and improve the existing program, and to develop  
10 additional programs as required.

11 \* Sec. 2. AS 14.40 is amended by adding a new section to read:

12 Sec. 14.40.085. ESTABLISHMENT OF ALASKA STATE CLIMATE CENTER. (a)  
13 The university shall establish an Alaska State Climate Center within an  
14 appropriate unit of the university. The administration and management  
15 of the center is under the direction of a university employee designated  
16 the "state climatologist."

17 (b) The Alaska State Climate Center shall

18 (1) prepare and update on a biennial basis a plan for the  
19 systematic acquisition and dissemination of climate-related information;  
20 the plan shall include

21 (A) an assessment of weather and climate information  
22 needs in Alaska;

23 (B) a reasonable basis for setting priorities among  
24 those needs; and

25 (C) a program for coordinating the activities of all  
26 available sources of weather- and climate-related information in  
27 order to meet the highest priority needs and to carry out the  
28 provisions of this section;

29 (2) establish a state climate planning advisory group composed

1 of (A) at least three members of organizations which provide climate-  
2 related information and (B) at least three members from organizations  
3 which use climate-related information on a regular basis or from the  
4 general public;

5 (3) solicit and consider the advice and recommendations of  
6 the state climate planning advisory group in preparing and updating the  
7 biennial plan for acquisition and dissemination of climate-related  
8 information;

9 (4) operate and maintain a central repository and archive for  
10 reports, books, maps and other records, and publications relating to  
11 weather and climatological information;

12 (5) provide for public access to weather and climatological  
13 information and technical advisory services; and

14 (6) enter into cooperative agreements, on behalf of the state  
15 and the university, in order to achieve intergovernmental climate  
16 program participation by the United States and the state; these agree-  
17 ments shall be consistent with the provisions of the National Climate  
18 Program Act, 15 U.S.C. 2901 - 2908.

19 (c) The Alaska State Climate Center may

20 (1) investigate, describe, and interpret the characteristics  
21 of the weather and climate of the state, including its hazards and  
22 limitations;

23 (2) coordinate with state and federal agencies in matters  
24 concerning weather data acquisition, collection, integration and  
25 storage;

26 (3) monitor federal weather-related activities to assure that  
27 interests of the state are being served;

28 (4) conduct research activities on the availability of solar,  
29 wind, and water resources which assess the impact of climate fluctuations

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29

on these resources;

(5) publish bulletins, circulars, maps, or reports of the results of all research and investigations undertaken by the climate center, and distribute them to state agencies, government officials, industry, and the public;

(6) provide lectures, talks, displays, and exhibits on the climate of the state for the general education of the public; and

(7) enter into cooperative arrangements with local, state, and federal government agencies, foundations, universities, businesses, and other organizations engaged in climate-related research and services.