

Introduced: 1/30/80  
Referred: Judiciary and Finance

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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 644

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act creating the Alaska Statehood Commission; and  
7 providing for an effective date."

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

9 \* Section 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE. The people of Alaska seek reasonable  
10 self-control of their lives, land and water, fish and wildlife, and trade and  
11 commerce. The legislature finds that the current relationship of the people  
12 of Alaska to the United States inhibits the achievement of that goal. The  
13 purpose of this Act is to study the status of the people of Alaska within the  
14 United States and to recommend appropriate changes to that status.

15 \* Sec. 2. AS 44.03 is amended by adding new sections to read:

16 ARTICLE 2. ALASKA STATEHOOD COMMISSION.

17 Sec. 44.03.100. ALASKA STATEHOOD COMMISSION. The Alaska Statehood  
18 Commission is established to study the status of the people of Alaska  
19 within the United States and to consider and recommend appropriate  
20 changes in the relationship of the the people of Alaska to the United  
21 States.

22 Sec. 44.03.110. DUTIES. The commission shall study, review, and  
23 report to the legislature and to the people of the state on

24 (1) progress made in implementing the Alaska Statehood Act  
25 and the likely nature of its implementation in the future;

26 (2) recent experiences of other states and peoples under the  
27 American flag in their relationships with the United States;

28 (3) the structures of foreign federations, including their  
29 methods for changing forms of association;

1 (4) alternative forms of association possible between the  
2 people of Alaska and the United States;

3 (5) the legal basis for new forms of association between the  
4 people of Alaska and the United States, including amendments to the  
5 constitutions of the United States or of the state of Alaska;

6 (6) other matters the commission considers germane to its  
7 purpose.

8 Sec. 44.03.120. MEMBERSHIP. The commission shall consist of nine  
9 members. One shall be appointed by the governor; one shall be appointed  
10 by the chief justice of the supreme court; one shall be appointed by the  
11 presiding officer of each house of the legislature; one shall be  
12 appointed by the lieutenant governor; and one shall be elected from each  
13 judicial district of the state at the next statewide election.

14 Sec. 44.03.130. TERM. The term of the members of the commission  
15 begins 30 days after the certification of the election of elected  
16 members of the commission by the lieutenant governor and expires on  
17 submission of the final recommendations by the commission.

18 Sec. 44.03.140. VACANCIES. A vacancy in the membership of the  
19 commission shall be filled by the authority that made the vacated  
20 appointment. The governor shall fill vacancies in seats held by elected  
21 members.

22 Sec. 44.03.150. POWERS. (a) The commission may employ profes-  
23 sional, legal and other staff assistants and enter into contracts for  
24 goods and services.

25 (b) Members of the commission are entitled to expenses, travel,  
26 and per diem allowances provided by law.

27 (c) Agencies of the state shall provide the commission with infor-  
28 mation requested by it.

29 Sec. 44.03.160. REPORTS, HEARINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. (a) The

1 commission shall make a preliminary report to the legislature within the  
2 first 10 days of the Second Session of the Twelfth Alaska Legislature.

3 (b) The commission shall and committees of the legislature may  
4 hold hearings on the preliminary report throughout the state.

5 (c) The commission shall submit its final recommendations to the  
6 legislature within the first 10 days of the First Session of the Thir-  
7 teenth Alaska Legislature.

8 Sec. 44.03.170. CERTAIN INTERESTS PRESERVED. If the commission  
9 recommends that the legislature seek a new relationship between the  
10 people of Alaska and the United States, the legislature intends that  
11 interests created under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and  
12 other laws for the protection and benefit of Alaska natives and the  
13 legitimate interests of the United States in the land, resources, and  
14 defense of Alaska be preserved.

15 Sec. 44.03.180. ELECTION. (a) The lieutenant governor shall  
16 conduct the election of members of the commission at the first statewide  
17 election held 90 days after the effective date of AS 44.03.100 - 44.03.-  
18 200. The election shall be held under the provisions of AS 15 except to  
19 the extent that those provisions are inconsistent with (b) of this  
20 section.

21 (b) Provisions for the election held under this section are as  
22 follows:

- 23 (1) the election will be nonpartisan;  
24 (2) candidates will file nominating petitions containing not  
25 less than 250 signatures not less than 60 days before the date of the  
26 election at which they will be elected;  
27 (3) no filing fee is required;  
28 (4) a separate ballot will be used.

29 (c) The lieutenant governor may adopt regulations to implement the

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provisions of this section.

Sec. 44.03.200. DEFINITION. In AS 44.03.100 - 44.33.200 "commission" means the Alaska Statehood Commission.

\* Sec. 3. AS 44.03.100 - 44.03.200, enacted by sec. 2 of this Act, are repealed July 1, 1983.

\* Sec. 4. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.10.-070(c).