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1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

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CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 328

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6

For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing an Older Alaskans Commission;

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and providing for an effective date."

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

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* Section 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE. (a) The legislature finds that the

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changing pace of modern life, economic inflation, the infirmities of ad-

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vancing years, and alterations in the traditions and values of family life

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have combined to place many older Alaskans in an unenviable position of

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poverty and dependency that endangers their health, well-being and safety.

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In keeping with the inherent dignity and respect due the individual in our

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society, older Alaskans are entitled to secure equal opportunity to the full

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enjoyment of

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(1) an adequate income in accordance with a decent standard of

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living;

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(2) sound physical and mental health, without regard to economic

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status or condition;

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(3) suitable housing, selected, designed and located with refer-

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ence to the special needs and concerns of older Alaskans at reasonable cost;

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(4) full restorative health services for those older Alaskans in

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need of institutional care;

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(5) opportunity for employment without discrimination;

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(6) pursuit of meaningful activity within a wide range of civic,

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cultural and recreational opportunities;

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(7) appropriate in-home care and readily available community

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social assistance;

1 (8) independence and the fullest exercise of individual initiative
2 on the part of older Alaskans in the planning and management of their lives.

3 (b) It is the purpose of this legislation to assure that the years
4 remaining to people over the age of 60 are years of good health, honor, and
5 dignity by

6 (1) providing necessary social services, health services, employ-
7 ment services, and educational opportunities to older Alaskans;

8 (2) giving special attention to the needs of older Alaskans in the
9 planning and delivery of state and local programs;

10 (3) improving the delivery of all public services essential to the
11 lives of older Alaskans; and

12 (4) requiring that the planning and provision of programs of
13 benefit to older Alaskans will be undertaken with the participation, know-
14 ledge, advice, and comments of people served.

15 * Sec. 2. AS 44.21 is amended by adding new sections to read:

16 ARTICLE 4. OLDER ALASKANS COMMISSION.

17 Sec. 44.21.200. OLDER ALASKANS COMMISSION. (a) There is estab-
18 lished in the Department of Administration the Older Alaskans Commis-
19 sion. The members of the commission include

20 (1) the commissioner of the Department of Administration, or
21 his designee;

22 (2) the commissioner of the Department of Community and
23 Regional Affairs, or his designee;

24 (3) the commissioner of the Department of Health and Social
25 Services, or his designee;

26 (4) the chairman of the Pioneers' Homes Advisory Board ap-
27 pointed under AS 44.21.100 - 44.21.130; and

28 (5) seven Alaskans selected on the basis of their knowledge
29 and demonstrated interest in the concerns of older Alaskans, appointed

1 by the governor in accordance with (b) of this section.

2 (b) After requesting from senior citizen organizations the names
3 of persons who are qualified for and interested in serving on the com-
4 mission, the governor shall appoint the members of the commission under
5 (a)(5) of this section. Appointments shall be made by the governor to
6 assure representation of low-income persons and minorities, and rep-
7 resentation from rural and urban areas of the state, and to secure
8 statewide geographical representation on the commission. At least five
9 of the persons appointed by the governor shall be 60 years of age or
10 older. At least two of these persons shall be 65 years of age or older.

11 (c) The persons appointed under (a)(5) of this section serve
12 overlapping four-year terms. A member may be reappointed, but no member
13 appointed under (a)(5) of this section may serve more than two consecu-
14 tive terms or eight consecutive years, whichever is longer.

15 (d) If a person appointed under (a)(5) of this section fails to
16 attend three consecutive meetings of the commission, a majority of the
17 members of the commission may request the governor to terminate the
18 membership of the member and to fill the vacancy.

19 (e) A vacancy in the membership of persons appointed under (a)(5)
20 of this section shall be filled by appointment by the governor. The
21 person appointed shall serve for the unexpired portion of the term.

22 Sec. 44.21.210. MEETINGS. (a) The commission shall meet at the
23 call of the chairman, at the request of a majority of the members, or at
24 a regularly scheduled time as determined by a majority of the members.
25 The commission shall meet at least six times each year.

26 (b) A majority of the members of the commission constitutes a
27 quorum for conducting business and exercising the powers of the commis-
28 sion.

29 (c) The commission shall elect one of its members as chairman, and

1 may select other officers it considers necessary.

2 Sec. 44.21.220. COMPENSATION. Members of the commission receive
3 no compensation for their services, but are entitled to per diem and
4 travel allowances authorized by law for other boards and commissions.

5 Sec. 44.21.230. POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The commission shall

6 (1) formulate a comprehensive statewide plan which identifies
7 the concerns and needs of older Alaskans and, with reference to the plan
8 adopted, prepare and submit to the governor and legislature an annual
9 analysis and evaluation of the services which are provided to older
10 Alaskans;

11 (2) make recommendations to the appropriate state agencies
12 and to the legislature with respect to legislation, regulations, and
13 appropriations made for programs or services which benefit older
14 Alaskans;

15 (3) encourage the development of municipal commissions
16 serving older Alaskans and community-oriented programs and services for
17 the benefit of older Alaskans;

18 (4) employ an executive director who serves at the pleasure
19 of the commission;

20 (5) administer federal programs relating to older Alaskans
21 requiring state action which are not specifically assigned to a state
22 agency;

23 (6) request and receive reports and audits from state
24 agencies and local institutions concerned with the conditions and needs
25 of older Alaskans.

26 (b) To accomplish its duties, the commission may

27 (1) review, evaluate and comment upon state programs con-
28 cerned with the problems and the needs of older Alaskans;

29 (2) collect facts and statistics, and make studies of condi-

1 tions and problems pertaining to the employment, health, financial
2 security, social welfare, and other concerns which bear upon the well-
3 being of older Alaskans;

4 (3) provide information about public programs which would be
5 of interest or benefit to older Alaskans;

6 (4) appoint special committees, including persons who are not
7 members of the commission, to complete necessary studies;

8 (5) promote community education efforts regarding the prob-
9 lems and concerns of older Alaskans;

10 (6) apply for and accept grants, contributions, and appropri-
11 ations, including making application for and accepting federal funds
12 provided under the Older Americans Act, P.L. 89-93, as amended;

13 (7) consult and cooperate with persons, organizations, and
14 groups interested in or concerned with programs of assistance to older
15 Alaskans;

16 (8) advocate improved programs of benefit to older Alaskans;
17 and

18 (9) set standards for levels of services for older Alaskans
19 for programs administered by the commission.

20 Sec. 44.21.240. DEFINITIONS. In AS 44.21.200 - 44.21.240, "com-
21 mission" means the Older Alaskans Commission.

22 * Sec. 3. AS 44.66.010(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

23 (8) Older Alaskans Commission (AS 44.21.200) -- June 30,
24 1984.

25 * Sec. 4. TRANSFER OF PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES. The programs and per-
26 sonnel of the office on aging in the Department of Health and Social Services
27 and the Governor's Advisory Committee on Aging are transferred to the Older
28 Alaskans Commission in the Department of Administration.

29 * Sec. 5. INITIAL MEMBERSHIP AND MEETING OF COMMISSION. (a) Of the

1 seven public members first appointed by the governor to the Older Alaskans
2 Commission under AS 44.21.200(a)(5),

3 (1) two shall serve a term of two years;

4 (2) three shall serve a term of three years;

5 (3) two shall serve a term of four years.

6 (b) In making appointments of the initial public members of the Older
7 Alaskans Commission under AS 44.21.200(a)(5), the governor shall designate an
8 expiration date of the terms of members first appointed in accordance with
9 (a) of this section.

10 (c) The governor shall determine the date and place of the initial
11 meeting of the Older Alaskans Commission.

12 * Sec. 6. CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION.
13 This Act does not affect the responsibility of the Department of Administra-
14 tion for the Alaska longevity bonus program (AS 47.45) or the Alaska Pio-
15 neers' Homes (AS 44.21.100 - 44.21.130).

16 * Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect July 1, 1980.
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