

Introduced: 3/21/80  
Referred: Finance

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY  
REQUEST OF THE LEGISLATIVE  
COUNCIL BY REQUEST

1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE BILL NO. 528

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 alternative energy research, de-  
7 velopment, and demonstration."

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

9 \* Section 1. PURPOSES. The purposes of this Act are to

10 (1) stimulate research, development, and demonstration of alterna-  
11 tive energy sources;

12 (2) ~~reduce~~ reliance on nonrenewable energy sources; and

13 (3) ~~provide for~~ the financing of research, development, and  
14 demonstration of alternative energy sources.

15 \* Sec. 2. AS 45.88 is amended by adding new sections to read:

16 ARTICLE 2. ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RESEARCH,  
17 DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION GRANTS.

18 Sec. 45.88.050. ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND  
19 DEMONSTRATION FUND. There is established in the Department of Commerce  
20 and Economic Development the alternative energy research, development,  
21 and demonstration fund. The fund shall be administered by the depart-  
22 ment. The fund may be financed by appropriation.

23 Sec. 45.88.060. POWERS OF DEPARTMENT. The department may

24 (1) employ staff to administer AS 45.88.050 - 45.88.100;

25 (2) retain professional consultants and advisors;

26 (3) adopt regulations and procedures to administer the fund;

27 (4) consider applications for grants and make grants for  
28 projects that will further the purposes of AS 45.88.050 - 45.88.100;

29 Sec. 45.88.070. APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS. A person may apply to

1 the department for a grant to conduct research in, to develop, or to  
2 demonstrate alternative energy sources. The department shall prescribe  
3 the form for applications. An applicant shall describe the nature of his  
4 proposed research, development, or demonstrations, including practical  
5 applications of possible results, the time which will be required to  
6 complete the research, development, or demonstration, and the potential  
7 for using the results of the research, development or demonstration in  
8 various areas of the state.

9 Sec. 45.88.080. CRITERIA FOR GRANTS. The department may make  
10 grants to applicants under AS 45.88.070 according to the following  
11 criteria:

12 (1) the department shall give preference to a project if, in  
13 the opinion of the department, the possible results of the project will  
14 provide benefits or information which are useful in all areas of the  
15 state;

16 (2) the department may give preference to a project which is  
17 also supported by grants from the federal government or from other  
18 persons if the other grants are consistent with the purposes expressed  
19 in AS 45.88.050 - 45.88.100;

20 (3) the department shall give preference to a project which  
21 makes information available to individuals, families, small businesses,  
22 and small communities on the use of alternative energy sources in their  
23 homes, plants, places of business, and small communities;

24 (4) the department shall notify the recipient of a grant that  
25 the information resulting from the research, development, or demonstra-  
26 tion shall be public and is not the private property of any person;

27 Sec. 45.88.085. ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PLAN. The department shall  
28 prepare a plan by November 30 of each year. The plan shall describe

29 (1) the long-term and short-term objectives of the department

1 for the next five years for the research and development of alternative  
2 energy; and

3 (2) the method to be used by the department to achieve those  
4 objectives.

5 Sec. 45.88.090. REPORTS. The department shall report its expendi-  
6 tures and other activities under AS 45.88.050 - 45.88.100 to the legis-  
7 lature by the 20th day of each regular legislative session. The depart-  
8 ment shall include in its report an assessment of its progress during  
9 the previous year in meeting the short-term and long-term objectives in  
10 the plan prepared under AS 45.88.085.

11 Sec. 45.88.100. DEFINITIONS. In AS 45.88.050 - 45.88.100,

12 (1) "alternative energy" means a form of energy, other than  
13 hydroelectric energy or energy from oil or natural gas, which is  
14 renewable, including but not limited to solar energy, wind energy,  
15 energy from methane produced from solid waste, or energy from other  
16 sources which are not widely used on a commercial basis; "alternative  
17 energy" also means energy conservation methods which are not widely used  
18 on a commercial basis, including but not limited to fuel cells;

19 (2) "department" means the Department of Commerce and  
20 Economic Development;

21 (3) "fund" means the alternative energy research, develop-  
22 ment, and demonstration fund.

23 (4) "small community" means a city, borough or unincorporated  
24 area which has a population of less than 5,000 according to the latest  
25 United States census figures or according to estimates of population  
26 certified as correct by the Department of Community and Regional  
27 Affairs.