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1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 SENATE CS FOR CS FOR SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 17 (HESS)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing an Older Alaskans Commission;
7 and providing for an effective date."

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

9 * Section 1. FINDINGS, PURPOSE, AND INTENT. (a) The legislature finds
10 that the changing pace of modern life, economic inflation, the infirmities
11 of advancing years, and alterations in the traditions and values of family
12 life have combined to place many older Alaskans in an unenviable position of
13 poverty and dependency that endangers their health, well-being, and safety.
14 In keeping with the inherent dignity and respect due the individual in our
15 society, older Alaskans are entitled to secure equal opportunity to the full
16 enjoyment of

17 (1) an adequate income in accordance with a decent standard of
18 living;

19 (2) sound physical and mental health, without regard to economic
20 status or condition;

21 (3) suitable housing, selected, designed, and located with refer-
22 ence to the special needs and concerns of older Alaskans at reasonable cost;

23 (4) full restorative health services for those older Alaskans in
24 need of institutional care;

25 (5) opportunity for employment without discrimination based on an
26 individual's age;

27 (6) pursuit of meaningful activity within a wide range of civic,
28 cultural, and recreational opportunities;

29 (7) efficient, coordinated in-home care and readily available

1 community social assistance;

2 (8) the benefit of knowledge gained from research which can sus-
3 tain and improve the health and happiness of older Alaskans; and

4 (9) independence and the fullest exercise of individual initia-
5 tive on the part of older Alaskans in the planning and management of their
6 lives.

7 (b) It is the purpose of this Act to assure that the years remaining
8 to people over the age of 60 are years of good health, honor, and dignity by

9 (1) providing a full range of social services, health services,
10 employment services, and educational opportunities to older Alaskans;

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

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

15 (4) requiring that the planning and provision of programs of
16 benefit to older Alaskans will be undertaken with the participation, knowl-
17 edge, advice, and comments of people served.

18 (c) It is the intent of this Act to exclude the Alaska Pioneers' Homes
19 and the longevity bonus program from the provisions of this Act, and to
20 exempt the Alaska Pioneers' Homes and the longevity bonus program from the
21 scope of the authority and responsibility of the Older Alaskans Commission.

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

23 ARTICLE 4. OLDER ALASKANS COMMISSION.

24 Sec. 44.21.200. OLDER ALASKANS COMMISSION. (a) The Older
25 Alaskans Commission is established in the Department of Administration.
26 The members of the commission include

27 (1) the commissioner of the Department of Administration or
28 his designee;

29 (2) the commissioner of the Department of Community and

1 Regional Affairs or his designee;

2 (3) the commissioner of the Department of Health and Social
3 Services or his designee;

4 (4) the chairman of the Pioneers' Homes Advisory Board
5 appointed under AS 44.21.100 - 44.21.130; and

6 (5) seven Alaskans selected on the basis of their knowledge
7 and demonstrated interest in the concerns of older Alaskans, appointed
8 by the governor in accordance with (b) of this section.

9 (b) After requesting from senior citizens organizations the names
10 of persons who are qualified for and interested in serving on the
11 commission, the governor shall appoint the members of the commission
12 under (a)(5) of this section. Appointments shall be made by the gover-
13 nor to assure representation of low-income persons and minorities, and
14 representation from rural and urban areas of the state, and to secure
15 statewide geographical representation on the commission. At least six
16 of the persons appointed by the governor shall be 60 years of age or
17 older. At least two of these persons shall be 65 years of age or
18 older. Each member appointed by the governor shall be a resident of
19 the state.

20 (c) The persons appointed under (a)(5) of this section serve
21 overlapping four-year terms. A member may be reappointed, but no
22 member appointed under (a)(5) of this section may serve more than two
23 consecutive terms or eight consecutive years, whichever is longer.

24 (d) If a person appointed under (a)(5) of this section fails to
25 attend three consecutive meetings of the commission, a majority of the
26 members of the commission shall request the governor to terminate the
27 membership of the member and to fill the vacancy.

28 (e) A vacancy in the membership of persons appointed under (a)(5)
29 of this section shall be filled by appointment by the governor. The

1 person appointed shall serve for the unexpired portion of the term.

2 Sec. 44.21.210. MEETINGS. (a) The commission shall meet at the
3 call of the chairman, at the request of a majority of the members, or
4 at a regularly scheduled time as determined by a majority of the mem-
5 bers. The commission shall meet at least six times each year.

6 (b) The members of the commission listed in AS 44.21.200(a)(1) -
7 (4) may not vote on matters before the commission. A majority of the
8 members of the commission listed in AS 44.21.200(a)(5) constitutes a
9 quorum for conducting business and exercising the powers of the commis-
10 sion.

11 (c) The commission shall elect one of its members as chairman,
12 and may select other officers it considers necessary.

13 Sec. 44.21.220. COMPENSATION. Members of the commission receive
14 no compensation for their services, but are entitled to per diem and
15 travel allowances authorized by law for other boards and commissions
16 under AS 39.20.180.

17 Sec. 44.21.230. POWERS, DUTIES AND LIMITATIONS. (a) The commis-
18 sion shall

19 (1) formulate a comprehensive statewide plan which identi-
20 fies the concerns and needs of older Alaskans and, with reference to
21 the plan adopted, prepare and submit to the governor and legislature an
22 annual analysis and evaluation of the services which are provided to
23 older Alaskans;

24 (2) make recommendations directly to the governor and legis-
25 lature with respect to legislation, regulations, and appropriations for
26 programs or services which benefit older Alaskans;

27 (3) encourage and aid the development of municipal commis-
28 sions serving older Alaskans and community-oriented programs and ser-
29 vices for the benefit of older Alaskans;

1 (4) employ an executive director who serves at the pleasure
2 of the commission;

3 (5) help older Alaskans lead dignified, independent, and
4 useful lives; and

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

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

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

11 (2) collect facts and statistics, and make studies of condi-
12 tions and problems pertaining to the employment, health, financial
13 security, social welfare, and other concerns which bear upon the well-
14 being of older Alaskans;

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

17 (4) appoint special committees, which may include persons
18 who are not members of the commission, to complete necessary studies;

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

21 (6) contract for necessary services;

22 (7) consult and cooperate with persons, organizations, and
23 groups interested in or concerned with programs of assistance to older
24 Alaskans;

25 (8) advocate improved programs of benefit to older Alaskans;
26 and

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

29 (c) The commission may not investigate, review, or undertake any

1 responsibility for the longevity bonus program (AS 47.45.010 - 47.45.-
2 170) or the Alaska Pioneers' Homes (AS 47.25.010 - 47.25.110).

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

5 * Sec. 3. AS 39.25.120 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

6 (19) the executive director, but not other staff, of the
7 Older Alaskans Commission located in the Department of Administration.

8 * Sec. 4. AS 44.66.010(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

9 (10) Older Alaskans Commission (AS 44.21.200) -- June 30,
10 1985.

11 * Sec. 5. AS 47.65.060(4) is amended by adding a new subparagraph to
12 read:

13 (C) an educational institution.

14 * Sec. 6. INITIAL MEMBERSHIP AND MEETING OF COMMISSION. (a) Of the
15 seven public members first appointed by the governor to the Older Alaskans
16 Commission under AS 44.21.200(a)(5),

17 (1) three shall serve a term of two years;

18 (2) two shall serve a term of three years;

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

20 (b) In making appointments of the first public members of the Older
21 Alaskans Commission under AS 44.21.200(a)(5), the governor shall designate
22 an expiration date of the terms of members first appointed in accordance
23 with (a) of this section.

24 (c) The governor shall determine the date and place of the first
25 meeting of the Older Alaskans Commission; however, that meeting shall be
26 held not later than 60 days after the effective date of this Act.

27 * Sec. 7. CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION.
28 This Act does not affect the responsibility of the Department of Adminis-
29 tration for the Alaska longevity bonus program (AS 47.45.010 - 47.45.170) or

1 the Alaska Pioneers' Homes (AS 47.25.010 - 47.25.110).

2 * Sec. 8. This Act takes effect July 1, 1981.

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