

Introduced: 3/25/81  
Referred: Judiciary and  
Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY CLOCKSIN AND PHILLIPS

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 395

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act designating the Anchorage Citizens Arbitration  
7 and Mediation Project, Inc., as a state pilot project  
8 in nonjudicial dispute resolution; and providing for  
9 an effective date."

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

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

12 (1) for most Alaskans, mechanisms for the resolution of minor  
13 disputes are unavailable, inaccessible, ineffective, expensive, or unfair;

14 (2) inadequacies in existing dispute resolution mechanisms result  
15 in inadequately resolved disputes and grievances;

16 (3) the heavy emphasis in Alaska on formal judicial dispute  
17 resolution, even in small claims proceedings, has limited exploration of the  
18 possibility of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms; and

19 (4) faced with court delays, the intimidating nature of formal  
20 court proceedings and prohibitively expensive attorney fees, most minor  
21 disputes, or disputes in which a money judgment is not appropriate, go  
22 unresolved, leading to citizen dissatisfaction with the dispute resolution  
23 system provided by the state.

24 (b) The purpose of this Act is to

25 (1) designate the Anchorage Citizens Arbitration and Mediation  
26 Project, Inc., as a pilot project in community-based, nonjudicial dispute  
27 resolution;

28 (2) allow the appropriation of matching money to Anchorage  
29 Citizens Arbitration and Mediation Project, Inc., so that the project can

1 perform its stated function of dispute resolution; and

2 (3) provide for the gathering of information on the usefulness of  
3 the Anchorage Citizens Arbitration and Mediation Project, Inc., as a means  
4 of nonjudicial dispute and grievance resolution, to be studied by the legis-  
5 lature to determine the value of implementing a statewide nonjudicial dispute  
6 resolution program modeled on the pilot project.

7 \* Sec. 2. DESIGNATION OF PILOT PROJECT. The Anchorage Citizens Arbitra-  
8 tion and Mediation Project, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, is designated a  
9 pilot project in nonjudicial dispute resolution.

10 \* Sec. 3. MATCHING MONEY. The legislature may appropriate money for the  
11 operation of the Anchorage Citizens Arbitration and Mediation Project, Inc.,  
12 on a dollar for dollar basis to match money raised by the project.

13 \* Sec. 4. REPORTING. If money is appropriated to the Anchorage Citizens  
14 Arbitration and Mediation Project, Inc., and is accepted by the project, the  
15 project shall prepare a complete report on its activities, including statis-  
16 tical summaries, to be presented to the legislature by February 2, 1982.

17 \* Sec. 5. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 10.10.-  
18 070(c).