

Introduced: 1/29/82  
Referred: Labor & Commerce and  
Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE LABOR AND  
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 703

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the use of communications media  
7 under the Administrative Procedure Act."

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

9 \* Section 1. AS 44.62.210(a) is amended to read

10 (a) On the date and at the time and place designated in the notice  
11 the agency shall give each interested person or his authorized repre-  
12 sentative, or both, the opportunity to present statements, arguments, or  
13 contentions in writing, with or without opportunity to present them  
14 orally. The state agency may accept matter presented by means of any  
15 form of communication and shall consider all relevant matter presented  
16 to it before adopting, amending or repealing a regulation.

17 \* Sec. 2. AS 44.62.310(a) is amended to read:

18 (a) All meetings of a legislative body, of a board of regents, or  
19 of an administrative body, board, commission, committee, subcommittee,  
20 authority, council, agency, or other organization, including subordinate  
21 units of the above groups, of the state or any of its political sub-  
22 divisions, including but not limited to municipalities, boroughs, school  
23 boards, and all other boards, agencies, assemblies, councils, depart-  
24 ments, divisions, bureaus, commissions or organizations, advisory or  
25 otherwise, of the state or local government supported in whole or in  
26 part by public money or authorized to spend public money, are open to  
27 the public except as otherwise provided by this section. Public atten-  
28 dance and participation at meetings may be by communications media.  
29 Except when voice votes are authorized, the vote shall be conducted in

1 such a manner that the public may know the vote of each person entitled  
2 to vote. This section does not apply to any votes required to be taken  
3 to organize the afore-mentioned bodies.

4 \* Sec. 3. AS 44.62.312(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

5 (6) the use of communications media under the provisions of  
6 this chapter is for the convenience of the public and to provide the  
7 broadest dissemination of information as is practicable.

8 \* Sec. 4. AS 44.62.410 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

9 (b) For the mutual convenience of the parties, the agency may use  
10 communications media in the conduct of a hearing under this section.

11 \* Sec. 5. AS 44.62.600 is amended to read:

12 Sec. 44.62.600. VOTING PROCEDURE [MAIL VOTE]. A member of an  
13 agency qualified to vote on a question may vote by mail or by communica-  
14 tions media. A vote by communications media shall be recorded in a  
15 manner that identifies each person who has voted.

16 \* Sec. 6. AS 44.62 is amended by adding a new section to read:

17 Sec. 44.62.635. COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA. In addition to the specific  
18 authorizations in this chapter of the use of communications media, an  
19 agency may use communications media for the benefit or convenience of  
20 the parties or the public in connection with any proceeding or act  
21 authorized under this chapter.

22 \* Sec. 7. AS 44.62.640 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

23 (c) In this chapter "communications media" includes telecommunica-  
24 tions equipment or services that provide for the exchange of information  
25 by audio, video, or computer teleconferencing.