

Introduced: 2/13/84
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE SENATE

BY FAHRENKAMP

2

SENATE BILL NO. 461

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

/ A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the management and use of water
7 in mining; and providing for an effective date."

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

9 * Section 1. AS 46 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

10 CHAPTER 32. MANAGEMENT AND USE OF WATER IN MINING.

11 Sec. 46.32.010. MINING WATER USE BOARD ESTABLISHED. The mining
12 water use board is established. The board is responsible for the
13 implementation of this chapter.

14 Sec. 46.32.020. MEMBERSHIP AND PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE BOARD.

15 (a) The board consists of the commissioner of environmental conserva-
16 tion, the commissioner of natural resources, the commissioner of
17 commerce and economic development, the dean of the school of mineral
18 industry at the University of Alaska, and two individuals appointed by
19 the governor who are familiar with the mining industry.

20 (b) An individual described in (a) of this section who serves ex
21 officio may designate an alternate to serve on the board.

22 (c) The governor may designate the presiding officer of the
23 board.

24 (d) An individual appointed by the governor serves for a three-
25 year term.

26 Sec. 46.32.030. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BOARD. (a) The board
27 shall review and may approve applications filed with the board for
28 grants or loans filed under this chapter.

29 (b) The board may adopt regulations necessary to implement this

1 chapter.

2 Sec. 46.32.040. RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMISSIONER OF NATURAL RE-
3 SOURCES. (a) The commissioner of natural resources shall administer
4 the innovative gold recovery demonstration grant program established
5 under AS 46.32.050 and the placer mining water reduction loan program
6 established under AS 46.32.060.

7 (b) The commissioner of natural resources may adopt regulations
8 necessary to implement this section.

9 Sec. 46.32.050. INNOVATIVE GOLD RECOVERY DEMONSTRATION GRANT.

10 (a) The innovative gold recovery demonstration grant program is
11 established as a direct grant program to give an individual placer
12 miner and a business engaged in placer mining the opportunity to study
13 and test new methods of gold recovery.

14 (b) The commissioner of natural resources shall monitor and
15 evaluate the results of grants made under this section.

16 Sec. 46.32.060. PLACER MINING WATER REDUCTION LOAN AND GRANT.

17 (a) The placer mining water reduction program is established as a
18 loan and grant program.

19 (b) A placer miner may apply for a loan to study technology that
20 reasonably offers the possibility of a reduction in the amount of
21 water used in placer mining. The board shall review and may approve
22 an application for the study of a proposal that the board believes to
23 offer a reasonable possibility of a reduction in the amount of water
24 used in placer mining.

25 (c) If a loan applicant offers evidence that the commissioner of
26 natural resources reasonably believes has reduced the amount of water
27 used in the placer mining operation by 50 percent, the commissioner
28 may recommend to the board that 50 percent of the loan be considered a
29 grant to the loan applicant.

1 (d) If a loan applicant offers evidence that the commissioner of
2 natural resources reasonably believes has reduced the amount of water
3 used in the placer mining operation by 80 percent, the commissioner
4 may recommend to the board that the entire loan be considered a grant
5 to the applicant.

6 Sec. 46.32.070. RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMISSIONER OF ENVIRONMENTAL
7 CONSERVATION. (a) The commissioner of environmental conservation
8 shall administer the innovative pollution control demonstration grant
9 established under AS 46.32.080 and the placer mining water recycling
10 loan program established under AS 46.32.090.

11 (b) The commissioner of environmental conservation may adopt
12 regulations necessary to implement this section.

13 Sec. 46.32.080. INNOVATIVE POLLUTION CONTROL DEMONSTRATION
14 PROGRAM. (a) The innovative pollution control demonstration grant
15 program is established as a direct grant program to give an individual
16 placer miner and a business engaged in placer mining the opportunity
17 to study and test innovative and economically viable mining techniques
18 for waste disposal and pollution control in placer mining.

19 (b) The commissioner of environmental conservation shall monitor
20 and evaluate the results of grants made under this section.

21 Sec. 46.32.090. PLACER MINING WATER RECYCLING LOAN AND GRANT
22 PROGRAM. (a) The placer mining water recycling program is estab-
23 lished as a loan and grant program.

24 (b) A placer miner may apply for a loan to study technology that
25 reasonably offers the possibility of recycling the water used in
26 placer mining. The board shall review and may approve an application
27 for the purchase of water recycling pumps and other equipment that the
28 board believes will offer a reasonable possibility of recycling the
29 water used in placer mining.

1 (c) If a loan applicant offers evidence that the commissioner of
2 environmental conservation reasonably believes has recycled 50 percent
3 of the water used in the placer mining operation, the commissioner may
4 recommend to the board that 50 percent of the loan be considered a
5 grant to the loan applicant.

6 (d) If a loan applicant offers evidence that the commissioner of
7 environmental conservation reasonably believes has recycled 80 percent
8 of the water used in the placer mining operation, the commissioner may
9 recommend to the board that the entire loan be considered a grant to
10 the applicant.

11 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect July 1, 1984.