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Referred: State Affairs,
Health, Education & Social
Services and Finance

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY
REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 693

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Alaska research policy."

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

8 * Section 1. AS 44.19 is amended by adding new sections to read:

9 ARTICLE 13A. ALASKA RESEARCH POLICY ACT.

10 Sec. 44.19.250. PURPOSE. The purpose of the Alaska Research
11 Policy Act is to establish state research policy, priorities, and
12 goals, and to provide a plan for basic and applied scientific research
13 for Alaska, including natural resources and materials, physical,
14 biological, and health sciences, and social and behavioral sciences.

15 Sec. 44.19.252. STATEMENT OF POLICY. It is the policy of the
16 State of Alaska, in AS 44.19.250 -- 44.19.264, to recognize the impor-
17 tant role that scientific and engineering research play for the people
18 of Alaska and the entire nation. The policy will make it possible to

19 (1) find, develop, and manage the natural renewable and
20 nonrenewable resources of the state's land and water economically and
21 in an environmentally acceptable fashion;

22 (2) manage the unique features of the environment, fauna,
23 and flora of the state and protect them from adverse man-made influ-
24 ences;

25 (3) investigate and mitigate the effects of natural hazards
26 such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, avalanches, permafrost, and
27 other hazards that occur in the state;

28 (4) construct, operate, and maintain transportation sys-
29 tems, communications, housing, and other facilities suited to Alaskan

1 conditions;

2 (5) develop new technologies adapted to the unique con-
3 ditions and needs of the state;

4 (6) improve the health and well being throughout the life
5 cycle of the state's inhabitants; and

6 (7) identify and address future social and economic chal-
7 lenges facing the state.

8 Sec. 44.19.254. SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING ADVISORY COMMISSION.
9 The science and engineering advisory commission is established as a
10 permanent advisory agency in the office of the governor.

11 Sec. 44.19.256. MEMBERS OF COMMISSION. (a) The commission is
12 composed of five members appointed by the governor as follows:

13 (1) one member is to be appointed from among individuals
14 from the academic institutions of Alaska with expertise in areas of
15 research relating to Alaska including the physical, biological,
16 health, environmental, social, and behavioral sciences;

17 (2) one member is to be appointed from among individuals
18 who are engaged in activities furthering the welfare of the human and
19 physical environment and who have expertise in areas of research
20 relating to Alaska, including the physical, biological, health, en-
21 vironmental, social, and behavioral sciences;

22 (3) one member is to be appointed from among State of
23 Alaska departments with research needs; and

24 (4) one member is to be appointed from among individuals
25 familiar with Alaska and representative of the needs and interests of
26 private industry;

27 (5) the senior science advisor in the Governor's Office,
28 who serves as chairman and director of the commission.

29 (b) The members must be residents of the state and must be

1 appointed without regard to political affiliation or geographical
2 location of residence within the state.

3 Sec. 44.19.258. TERM OF MEMBERS OF COMMISSION. (a) A member of
4 the commission, other than the senior science advisor, serves for a
5 term of four years and until a successor qualifies and is appointed.

6 (b) Of the members of the commission originally appointed,

- 7 (1) one must be appointed for one year;
8 (2) one must be appointed for two years;
9 (3) one must be appointed for three years; and
10 (4) one must be appointed for four years.

11 Sec. 44.19.260. EXPENSES AND PER DIEM. A member of the commis-
12 sion is entitled to travel expenses and per diem prescribed for state
13 boards and commissions.

14 Sec. 44.19.262. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION. The commission shall

- 15 (1) with the senior science advisor, develop and recommend
16 an integrated Alaska research policy;
17 (2) provide policy information to the governor and the
18 legislature on matters that have scientific significance;
19 (3) receive scientific information from the academic and
20 industrial communities;
21 (4) act in an advocacy role for scientific issues important
22 to Alaska which might otherwise be overlooked;
23 (5) assist state agencies in assessing research needs and
24 establishing priorities among them;
25 (6) facilitate cooperation between state agencies and the
26 University of Alaska and other academic institutions and industry;
27 (7) recommend methods to improve logistical planning and
28 support for needed Alaska research;
29 (8) suggest methods for improving efficient sharing and

1 dissemination of data and information in Alaska among interested
2 public and private institutions;

3 (9) cooperate with the Federal Arctic Research Commission
4 in the formulation of the arctic research policy; and

5 (10) not later than September 30 of each year, present to
6 the governor the commission's recommended research priorities of the
7 state for the next fiscal year.

8 Sec. 44.19.264. SHORT TITLE. AS 44.19.250 -- 44.19.264 may be
9 cited as the Alaska Research Policy Act.