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1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE BILL NO. 201

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act creating a public access fund."

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

8 * Section 1. FINDINGS. The legislature finds that the people of the
9 state desire to ensure public access to areas of recreational value and
10 enjoyment in the state. Therefore, the legislature shall establish a
11 public access fund in the general fund.

12 * Sec. 2. AS 16.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

13 Sec. 16.05.135. PUBLIC ACCESS FUND CREATED. (a) There is
14 created in the general fund a public access fund. The fund is estab-
15 lished in the Department of Fish and Game and consists of contribu-
16 tions from individuals and corporations. The state may contribute to
17 the fund. The public access fund committee shall administer the fund.
18 The committee shall select and purchase land, easements, and rights of
19 way to enhance public access to recreational areas.

20 (b) The committee is composed of five members appointed by the
21 governor who serve at the pleasure of the governor. Members of the
22 committee serve without compensation but are entitled to per diem and
23 travel expenses authorized for boards and commissions under
24 AS 39.20.180.

25 (c) The Department of Revenue shall inform all applicants for
26 permanent fund dividends about the public access fund. The commis-
27 sioner of revenue shall provide applicants with a form, addressed to
28 the commissioner, on which the applicant may pledge the applicant's
29 permanent fund dividend to the public access fund and may authorize

1 the commissioner to pay the applicant's dividend directly to the fund.
2 (d) Title to rights of public access to recreational areas
3 obtained by the committee shall vest in the state. The instrument
4 conferring title on the state must include a clause requiring that the
5 land be used in perpetuity for public access and that if the property
6 ceases to be used for public access, it will automatically revert to
7 the grantor. However, if the committee, after public hearing, author-
8 izes the sale or exchange of a right of public access in return for a
9 similar or better right of public access, the sale or exchange is
10 valid and the property does not revert to the grantor.