

Offered: 2/27/86  
Referred: Finance

Original sponsors: Sturgulewski, V. Fischer,  
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1 IN THE SENATE BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
2 CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 310 (State Affairs)  
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 Natural Hazards  
7 Safety Commission."  
8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:  
9 \* Section 1. FINDINGS. The legislature finds that  
10 (1) there is a pressing need to provide a consistent policy  
11 framework and a means for continuing coordination of hazard-related pro-  
12 grams and public safety practices at all governmental levels and in the  
13 private sector; this need is not being addressed by any continuing state  
14 government organization;  
15 (2) through concerted efforts coordinated by a Natural Hazards  
16 Safety Commission, the state can make long-term progress toward mitigating  
17 the effects of natural hazards on persons and property, thereby reducing  
18 the costs of responding to and recovering from natural hazards.  
19 \* Sec. 2. AS 44.37 is amended by adding new sections to read:  
20 ARTICLE 2. ALASKA NATURAL HAZARDS SAFETY COMMISSION.  
21 Sec. 44.37.200. COMMISSION ESTABLISHED. The Alaska Natural  
22 Hazards Safety Commission is established in the Department of Natural  
23 Resources.  
24 Sec. 44.37.210. MEMBERSHIP. (a) The commission is composed of  
25 11 members appointed by the governor for terms of three years. A  
26 member holds office until a successor is appointed and confirmed. A  
27 vacancy is filled for the unexpired term. The governor shall appoint  
28 to the commission a representative from the University of Alaska, a  
29 representative from the Department of Community and Regional Affairs,

1 a representative from the Department of Natural Resources, a represen-  
2 tative from the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, a rep-  
3 resentative from the Department of Transportation and Public Facil-  
4 ities, a representative from an appropriate federal agency and shall  
5 appoint the remaining five members from members of the public who are  
6 knowledgeable in the fields of geology, seismology, hydrology, geo-  
7 technical engineering, structural engineering, emergency services, or  
8 planning. In making appointments to the commission, the governor  
9 shall consider the need for representation from all parts of the  
10 state.

11 (b) The commission shall elect annually from its members a  
12 chairman and vice-chairman. A majority of the commission may vote to  
13 replace an officer of the commission.

14 (c) Six members constitute a quorum.

15 (d) Commission members receive no compensation but are entitled  
16 to travel and per diem authorized for boards and commissions under  
17 AS 39.20.180.

18 Sec. 44.37.220. POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The commission shall

19 (1) recommend goals and priorities for hazard mitigation to  
20 the public and private sectors;

21 (2) annually recommend policies to the governor and the  
22 legislature, including needed research, mapping, and monitoring pro-  
23 grams;

24 (3) offer advice on coordinating disaster preparedness and  
25 hazard-mitigation activities of government at all levels, review the  
26 practices for recovery and reconstruction after a natural disaster,  
27 and recommend improvements to mitigate losses from similar future  
28 events;

29 (4) gather, analyze, and disseminate information of general

1 interest on hazard mitigation;

2 (5) establish and maintain necessary working relationships  
3 with other public and private agencies;

4 (6) review predictions and warnings issued by the federal  
5 government, research institutions, and other organizations and persons  
6 and suggest appropriate responses at the state and local level; and

7 (7) review proposed hazard notifications and supporting  
8 information from state agencies, evaluate possible socioeconomic  
9 consequences, recommend that the governor issue formal hazard noti-  
10 fications when appropriate, and advise state and local agencies of  
11 appropriate responses.

12 (b) The commission may

13 (1) advise the governor and the legislature on disaster  
14 preparedness and hazard mitigation and on budgets for those activi-  
15 ties, and recommend legislation or policies to improve disaster pre-  
16 paredness or hazard mitigation;

17 (2) conduct public hearings;

18 (3) appoint committees from its membership and appoint  
19 external advisory committees of ex-officio members; and

20 (4) accept grants, contributions, and appropriations from  
21 public agencies, private foundations, and individuals.

22 Sec. 44.37.230. DEFINITIONS. In AS 44.37.200 - 44.37.230

23 (1) "commission" means the Alaska Natural Hazards Safety  
24 Commission;

25 (2) "disaster preparedness" means establishing plans and  
26 programs for responding to and distributing funds to alleviate losses  
27 from a disaster as defined in AS 26.23.230;

28 (3) "hazard mitigation" or "mitigation" mean activities  
29 that prevent or alleviate the harmful effects of natural hazards to

1 persons and property, including identification and evaluation of the  
2 hazards, assessment of the risks, and implementation of measures to  
3 reduce potential losses before a damaging event occurs.

4 \* Sec. 3. AS 44.66.010(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

5 (13) Alaska Natural Hazards Safety Commission (AS 44.37.200)

6 -- June 30, 1990.

7 \* Sec. 4. Notwithstanding AS 44.37.210 enacted by sec. 2 of this Act,  
8 two of the initial public members of the Alaska Natural Hazards Safety  
9 Commission shall serve terms of two years, two initial public members of  
10 the commission shall serve terms of three years and one initial public  
11 member shall serve a term of four years.

12 \* Sec. 5. Nothing in this Act is intended to transfer to the commission  
13 the authorities and responsibilities of other state agencies, boards,  
14 councils, or commissions or of local governments.