

Offered: 4/8/87  
Referred: Health, Education &  
Social Services and Finance

wol42haB

Original sponsor: Rules/Governor

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE LABOR AND  
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

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CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 218 (L&C)

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

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For an Act entitled: "An Act creating the Alaska Center for International  
Business; and providing for an effective date."

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

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\* Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. In connection with the establish-  
ment of a center for international business in the University of Alaska,  
the legislature finds that

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(1) recent fluctuations in the price of crude oil have made it  
clear that the state must take prompt and decisive action to reduce its  
economic dependency upon oil, through the diversification of its economy;

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(2) it is in the best interests of the state to continue to  
promote trade with Asia, Pacific Rim nations, and other countries of the  
world;

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(3) the state's location and vast resource base give the state a  
natural position as a bridge between the rest of the United States, Europe,  
and Asia; and

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(4) to take full advantage of the state's location and natural  
resources, and to develop the possibilities of an aggressive state foreign  
trade to their fullest, it is critical that the statutes formally provide  
for establishing a center for international business at the earliest  
possible time.

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\* Sec. 2. AS 14.40 is amended by adding a new section to read:

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Sec. 14.40.087. ALASKA CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS. (a)

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The University of Alaska shall establish an Alaska Center for Interna-  
tional Business in an appropriate unit of the university at its

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1 Anchorage campus. The center shall operate under the direction of an  
2 advisory board consisting of seven individuals, selected by the Board  
3 of Regents after consultation with the governor, who have demonstrated  
4 strong interest in the development of business and economic relation-  
5 ships between the state and foreign countries.

6 (b) The center shall conduct research, including research on  
7 market information and market strategies relating to trade by  
8 businesses in the state with foreign nations, and, in particular,  
9 Asian nations. The research must include

10 (1) making assessments and projections of the potential of  
11 various markets for the state's natural resources and technical and  
12 informational resources;

13 (2) identifying and analyzing the import requirements of  
14 and trade barriers to current and future commodity sales in other  
15 nations;

16 (3) identifying the state's trade competitors and assessing  
17 the public policy and programs used by the competitors to foster trade  
18 with potential markets for the state's goods and services;

19 (4) developing marketing strategies relevant to the state's  
20 trade policies with other countries; and

21 (5) investigating foreign investment opportunities in the  
22 state.

23 (c) The center shall cooperate with and may enter into contracts  
24 with other state, federal, and municipal agencies, and private insti-  
25 tutions, to maintain information relevant to the development of inter-  
26 national trade and business relationships between the state and other  
27 nations of the world.

28 (d) The center shall provide training programs and materials for  
29 teachers in the state's school districts to encourage an understanding

1 of culture, language, political and economic systems, social and legal  
2 systems, and other aspects of foreign countries, particularly in Asia.

3 (e) The center may charge fees for services the center provides  
4 to individuals and entities other than the state. The president of  
5 the University of Alaska shall separately account for all fees col-  
6 lected under this subsection. The annual estimated balance in the  
7 account may be used by the legislature to make appropriations to the  
8 university to carry out the purposes of this section.

9 (f) The center may conduct instructional programs, publish and  
10 distribute public service and information materials, establish or  
11 participate in programs to encourage student participation or to  
12 provide benefits to students, and cooperate and coordinate with other  
13 educational institutions.

14 (g) The center shall submit an annual report to the legislature  
15 on the center's activities. The report must include a summary of the  
16 center's expenditures during the preceding year.

17 (h) In this section, "center" means the Alaska Center for Inter-  
18 national Business, established by the University of Alaska under (a)  
19 of this section.

20 \* Sec. 3. AS 14.40.087, as added by sec. 2 of this Act, is repealed  
21 July 1, 1997.

22 \* Sec. 4. This Act takes effect July 1, 1987.