

Offered: 4/21/88  
Referred: Resources and  
Finance

5-1954B

Original sponsors: Frank, Miller,  
Boyer and Shultz

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 524 (HESS)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the application of water quality  
7 criteria to placer mining."

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

9 \* Section 1. AS 46.03.080 is amended by adding a new subsection to  
10 read:

11 (b) In applying water quality criteria to placer mining, the  
12 department shall prescribe in its permits or certifications a volume  
13 of dilution for an effluent or substance within a mixing zone of the  
14 receiving water unless the department determines that toxic pollutants  
15 are being discharged that will accumulate or concentrate in the  
16 environment, are carcinogens, would present a significant risk to  
17 human health, or would form a barrier to migratory species. The water  
18 quality criteria and antidegradation requirements of the regulations  
19 of the Environmental Protection Agency may be exceeded in placer  
20 mining within the mixing zone of the receiving water. The mixing zone  
21 of the receiving water in placer mining shall be as small as practica-  
22 ble. In determining the size of the mixing zone of the receiving  
23 water in placer mining, the department shall consider

24 (1) the physical, biological, and chemical characteristics  
25 of the receiving water, including volume and flow rate;

26 (2) the effects of the discharge upon the uses of the  
27 receiving water;

28 (3) the mixing characteristics of the receiving water; and  
29 (4) the characteristics of the effluent, including volume

1 and flow rate.