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Referred: Labor & Commerce  
& Finance

wol42sa

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY  
REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

2 SENATE BILL NO. 219

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

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

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

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

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

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

19 (3) Alaska's location and vast resource base gives it a  
20 natural position as a bridge between the rest of the United States,  
21 Europe, and Asia; and

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

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

28 Sec. 14.40.087. ALASKA CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS. (a)  
29 The University of Alaska shall establish an Alaska Center for

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

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

11 (1) making assessments and projections of the potential of  
12 various markets for Alaska natural resources and technical and infor-  
13 mational resources;

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

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

20 (4) developing marketing strategies relevant to Alaska's  
21 trade policies with other countries; and

22 (5) investigating foreign investment opportunities in  
23 Alaska.

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

29 (d) The center shall provide training programs and materials for

1 teachers in the state's school districts to encourage an understanding  
2 of culture, language, political and economic systems, social and legal  
3 systems, and other aspects of foreign countries, particularly in Asia.

4 (e) The center may charge fees for services it provides to  
5 individuals and entities other than the state. The commissioner of  
6 administration shall separately account for all fees collected under  
7 this subsection that the center deposits in the general fund. The  
8 annual estimated balance in the account may be used by the legislature  
9 to make appropriations to the center.

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

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

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

21 \* Sec. 3. AS 14.40.087, enacted by sec. 2 of this Act, is repealed  
22 June 30, 1987.

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