

Original sponsors: Josephson, Faiks,
Uehling, et al.

1 IN THE SENATE
2
3 CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 232 (HESS)
4 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
5 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION
6 A BILL
7 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing a state advisory committee on
8 Alaska-U.S. Arctic information policy; and providing
9 for an effective date."
10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
11 * Section 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE. (a) The legislature finds that
12 (1) a continuing state effort is needed to ensure the efficient
13 acquisition, storage, retrieval, transfer, and dissemination of current and
14 research-derived scientific and engineering knowledge concerning the
15 natural resources, environments, communities, and human conditions present
16 in the state;
17 (2) there is no formal organization uniting state, federal
18 municipal, and university information centers, libraries, and data systems;
19 (3) the state has made a considerable investment in the opera-
20 tion of information and data systems through its funding of resource man-
21 agement and scientific enterprise, and the preservation of the information
22 represents an investment that the state should protect by the inclusion of
23 the information within an accessible system;
24 (4) it is incumbent on each recipient of state funding, whether
25 an individual grantee or the administrator of a state program, to make
26 information available for state purposes;
27 (5) the interagency Council on Northern Resources Information
28 Management has as its objective the efficient management and sharing of
29 scientific, natural resource, and engineering information and data;
30 (6) plans for the termination or curtailment of information

1 centers, libraries, and data systems in government and at the University of
2 Alaska threaten seriously the enhancement and growth of the economy of the
3 state; the efficient interagency management and sharing of scientific,
4 natural resource, and engineering information; the capacity of state gov-
5 ernment to use accumulated information and to make technically correct
6 decisions involving science, natural resources, and engineering; and the
7 ability of the public to secure necessary information; and

8 (7) the collective knowledge and information available in li-
9 braries and information centers in the state represent wealth to the state
10 and profoundly affect the well-being of the state and its residents.

11 (b) The legislature intends that

12 (1) information resources be efficiently and cost-effectively
13 managed through appropriate technological systems that unify, combine, or
14 interconnect the diverse scientific, natural resource, and engineering
15 information systems and libraries of the state;

16 (2) policies and processes for cooperative management, transfer,
17 and dissemination of information be developed between federal, state,
18 municipal, and university systems and libraries;

19 (3) an information network to provide information services to
20 state, federal, municipal, and university research organizations and the
21 public and private sectors of the state be promoted and supported;

22 (4) appropriate roles within the information network established
23 in this Act be designated for state agencies and the University of Alaska.

24 * Sec. 2. AS 44.19 is amended by adding new sections to read:

25 ARTICLE 14B. STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALASKA -

26 U.S. ARCTIC INFORMATION POLICY.

27 Sec. 44.19.270. STATEMENT OF POLICY. It is the policy of the
28 state in AS 44.19.270 - 44.19.290 to recognize the important role that
29 science, natural resources, and engineering research and education

1 play for the people of the state and the entire nation. The policy
2 will make it possible to

3 (1) find, develop, and manage the natural renewable and
4 nonrenewable resources of the state's land and water economically and
5 in an environmentally acceptable fashion;

6 (2) manage the unique features of the environment, fauna,
7 and flora of the state and protect them from harmful man-made and
8 natural influences;

9 (3) investigate and mitigate the effects of natural hazards
10 such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, avalanches, permafrost, and
11 other hazards that occur in the state;

12 (4) construct, operate, and maintain transportation sys-
13 tems, communications, housing, and other facilities suited to the
14 state's conditions;

15 (5) develop new technologies adapted to the unique con-
16 ditions and needs of the state;

17 (6) improve the health and well being through the life
18 cycle of the state's inhabitants; and

19 (7) identify and address future social and economic chal-
20 lenges facing the state.

21 Sec. 44.19.275. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ALASKA-U.S. ARCTIC INFORMA-
22 TION POLICY COMMITTEE. (a) The state advisory committee on Alaska-
23 U.S. Arctic information policy is established in the Office of the
24 Governor.

25 (b) The committee is composed of seven members.

26 (c) Five members shall be appointed by the governor as follows:

27 (1) one member shall be appointed from the faculty of the
28 University of Alaska;

29 (2) three members shall be appointed from the state

1 membership of the Council on Northern Resources Information
2 Management;

3 (3) one member shall be appointed from the general public.

4 (d) The senior science advisor to the governor and the director
5 of libraries are members of the committee ex officio.

6 (e) The governor shall designate a presiding officer for the
7 committee.

8 (f) Members of the committee serve terms established under
9 AS 39.05.060.

10 Sec. 44.19.280. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE. (a) The
11 committee may

12 (1) receive money from private and government sources; and

13 (2) award contracts and grants to accomplish the purposes
14 of AS 44.19.270 - 44.19.290.

15 (b) The committee shall conduct an annual policy review of the
16 programs of agencies of the state and the University of Alaska con-
17 cerned with the acquisition, management, transfer, circulation, and
18 dissemination of scientific, natural resource, and engineering infor-
19 mation, data, or materials and may develop and recommend appropriate
20 policies for organizations involved with such activities, including

21 (1) changes in the structure of an agency responsible for
22 information services and management to increase efficiency, coordina-
23 tion, or cooperation with agencies of the federal, state, and municipi-
24 pal governments, and universities conducting research on Alaska or
25 arctic subjects;

26 (2) means to ensure access to information and data in the
27 fields of natural resources, science, and engineering;

28 (3) appropriate budgetary allocations by organization or
29 function.

1 Sec. 44.19.285. DESIGNATION OF MANAGEMENT ROLES IN COOPERATIVE
2 INFORMATION AND DATA MANAGEMENT FOR AN ALASKA-U.S. ARCTIC INFORMATION
3 NETWORK. (a) A state agency may join the Council on Northern Re-
4 sources Information Management and participate in cooperative infor-
5 mation and data management sharing and dissemination programs.

6 (b) The committee shall use the Council on Northern Resources
7 Information Management as an advisory group for the development of
8 state policy on cooperative interagency information management, shar-
9 ing, and dissemination.

10 (c) The Alaska State Library and the Rasmuson Library of the
11 University of Alaska-Fairbanks may be designated as primary library
12 information collection repositories and centers for scientific,
13 natural resource, and engineering knowledge.

14 (d) Each state agency and each organizational unit of the
15 University of Alaska shall maintain a listing and description with the
16 commission and with the Council on Northern Resources Information
17 Management of the natural resource, scientific, and engineering data
18 bases that the agency or unit has developed and is maintaining. The
19 listing shall be revised and submitted to the committee and the coun-
20 cil annually. Proprietary data may be protected under law.

21 (e) The Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center of the
22 University of Alaska-Anchorage shall provide professional information
23 acquisition activities, investigations and searches, information
24 consultation liaison and referral services, and information dissemina-
25 tion services, under appropriate terms and conditions, to the commit-
26 tee, any agency of the state or unit of the University of Alaska, or
27 to the public and to private industry in the fields of natural re-
28 source, scientific and engineering research, management and develop-
29 ment knowledge. The center may acquire and maintain current or

1 historic information collections, data bases or referral systems, or
2 directories to accomplish these services and prepare, publish, and
3 disseminate appropriate books, reports, maps, films, and other media
4 to meet the needs of governments and the public and private sectors.
5 The center may also share facilities and offer support services to
6 appropriate governmental agencies or university units whose missions
7 are enhanced by, and are compatible with, the operation of the center.
8 The center shall administer the Alaska State Climate Center estab-
9 lished under AS 14.40.085 in cooperation with the regional office of
10 the National Weather Service and the National Climatic Data Center
11 under cooperative agreements authorized by law.

12 Sec. 44.19.290. APPROPRIATIONS. Appropriations made for the
13 purposes of AS 44.19.270 - 44.19.290 are not one-year appropriations
14 and do not lapse under AS 37.25.010.

15 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).