

Introduced: 4/6/88
Referred: State Affairs

5-2126A

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

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SENATE BILL NO. 499

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing February 8 as 'Elizabeth
7 Peratrovich Day'."

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

9 * Section 1. FINDINGS. The Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native
10 Sisterhood had fought for three years to eliminate the racial discrimina-
11 tion that was evident in Alaska during the first part of the 20th century.
12 Alaska Natives were barred from some public facilities and segregated from
13 non-Natives in other public facilities. Elizabeth Peratrovich, then Grand
14 President of the Alaska Native Sisterhood, worked tirelessly in support of
15 House Resolution 14, the first legislation in the territory to prohibit
16 racial discrimination in public accommodations. Her testimony in support
17 of H.R. 14 before the territorial Senate overcame the unfavorable predispo-
18 sition that existed in the legislature. The resolution passed the territo-
19 rial Senate on February 8, 1945, and was signed into law by the governor of
20 the territory, Ernest Gruening, on February 16, 1945.

21 * Sec. 2. AS 44.12 is amended by adding a new section to read:

22 Sec. 44.12.065. ELIZABETH PERATROVICH DAY. Elizabeth
23 Peratrovich Day is established on February 8 of each year to honor
24 Elizabeth Peratrovich, past Grand President of the Alaska Native
25 Sisterhood, for her courageous, unceasing efforts to eliminate dis-
26 crimination and bring about equal rights in Alaska. Elizabeth
27 Peratrovich Day may be observed by suitable observances and exercises
28 by civic groups and the public.