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Referred: State Affairs
and Finance

6-0612A

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY GOLL, ULMER AND FOSTER

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HOUSE BILL NO. 109

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

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For an Act entitled: "An Act creating an Alaska Native Affairs Commission."

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

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* Section 1. AS 44.19 is amended by adding new sections to read:

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ARTICLE 17. ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS COMMISSION.

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Sec. 44.19.561. CREATION OF COMMISSION. (a) There is created

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in the Office of the Governor the Alaska Native Affairs Commission.

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The commission consists of the attorney general, the commissioner of

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commerce and economic development, the commissioner of community and

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regional affairs, the commissioner of education, the commissioner of

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fish and game, and the commissioner of health and social services, or

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their designees, and nine members appointed by the governor.

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(b) The members appointed by the governor under (a) of this

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section shall be residents of the state. In making the appointments,

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the governor shall consider

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(1) the recommendations made by Alaska Native corporations,

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Alaska Native nonprofit associations, Alaska Native fraternal orga-

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nizations, and other groups and persons having an interest in Alaska

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Native affairs;

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(2) statewide geographical representation on the commis-

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sion.

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Sec. 44.19.562. MEETINGS. A majority of the members constitutes

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a quorum for conducting business and exercising the powers of the

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commission. The commission shall meet at the call of the chair, at

1 the request of a majority of the members, or at a regularly scheduled
2 time as determined by a majority of the members.

3 Sec. 44.19.563. TERM OF OFFICE AND COMPENSATION. (a) Each
4 appointed member shall serve a term of four years. A vacancy shall be
5 filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as
6 original appointments.

7 (b) Members of the commission do not receive compensation for
8 their services but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses author-
9 ized by law for commissions under AS 39.20.180.

10 Sec. 44.19.564. POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The commission may

11 (1) study and analyze all facts relating to laws, regula-
12 tions, and guidelines with respect to Alaska Native affairs, including
13 issues of health, education, and economic development;

14 (2) act as a clearinghouse and coordinating body for mat-
15 ters concerning Alaska Natives and the state and for information
16 relating to the affairs of Alaska Natives;

17 (3) cooperate with public and private agencies in joint
18 efforts to study and resolve problems of Alaska Natives in the state;

19 (4) disseminate the results of research and data compiled
20 by the commission by publication and other methods such as public
21 hearings, conferences, and seminars;

22 (5) recommend legislative and administrative action on
23 matters relating to Alaska Native affairs;

24 (6) select and retain the services of consultants whose
25 advice is necessary to assist the commission in obtaining information;

26 (7) establish standing committees among the members to
27 investigate and make recommendations on issues of concern;

28 (8) create task forces composed of commission members and
29 other experts;

1 (9) accept monetary gifts or grants from the federal gov-
2 ernment, private corporations, charitable foundations, professional
3 associations, or other sources for implementation of programs neces-
4 sary or desirable for carrying out the general purposes of the commis-
5 sion;

6 (10) hire an executive director and additional administra-
7 tive staff as necessary to the commission's function.

8 (b) The commission shall elect one of its appointed members as
9 chair and may select other commission officers as it considers neces-
10 sary.

11 (c) By January 15 of each year the commission shall file a
12 report with the governor and the legislature of its proceedings for
13 the previous calendar year and shall submit recommendations for
14 legislative and administrative action.

15 * Sec. 2. Notwithstanding AS 44.19.563, enacted by sec. 1 of this Act,
16 the governor shall set the terms of the initial nine members of the Alaska
17 Native Affairs Commission appointed under AS 44.19.561, enacted by sec. 1
18 of this Act, so that three members serve for one year, three members serve
19 for two years, and three members serve for three years.