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1 IN THE HOUSE

BY M.DAVIS AND MENARD

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 136

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the Rural Alaska Television

7

Network Council."

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

9 \* Section 1. AS 39.50.200(b) is amended by adding a new paragraph to  
10 read:

11 (50) Rural Alaska Television Network Council (AS 44.21.-  
12 500).

13 \* Sec. 2. AS 44.21.320(c) is amended to read:

14 (c) Decisions and policies relating to programming under the  
15 satellite television project, including scheduling and allocation  
16 policies, may not be made by the department, but may only be made by  
17 the Rural Alaska Television Network Council established under AS 44.-  
18 21.500 [A NETWORK THAT IS REPRESENTATIVE OF PARTICIPATING RURAL TELE-  
19 VISION USERS, BY COMMERCIAL BROADCAST USERS OR BY OTHER AFFECTED  
20 PARTICIPATING USER GROUPS AND ENTITIES UNDER PROCEDURES PROVIDED BY  
21 STATUTE OR, IF NO STATUTE APPLIES, THEN BY AGREEMENT OF THE AFFECTED  
22 USER NETWORKS OR GROUPS. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ASSIST USERS IN PREPAR-  
23 ING AGREEMENTS THAT MAY BE REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION].

24 \* Sec. 3. AS 44.21 is amended by adding a new section to read:

25 ARTICLE 9. RURAL ALASKA TELEVISION NETWORK COUNCIL.

26 Sec. 44.21.500. RURAL ALASKA TELEVISION NETWORK COUNCIL. (a)  
27 There is established in the Department of Administration the Rural  
28 Alaska Television Network Council. The council consists of 17 mem-  
29 bers, including a consumer representative from each of the 12 areas in

1 the state served by the regional Native corporations organized under  
2 43 U.S.C. 1601 - 1628 (Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act) appointed  
3 by the governor, two members from the general public appointed by the  
4 governor, the president of the University of Alaska or the president's  
5 designee, the commissioner of education or the commissioner's  
6 designee, and one member appointed by the chair of the Alaska Public  
7 Broadcasting Commission.

8 (b) Except for the representatives of the University of Alaska  
9 and of the Department of Education, members serve for staggered terms  
10 of three years. A vacancy shall be filled for the balance of the  
11 unexpired term and shall be made in the same manner as the original  
12 appointment. A member may not serve more than two consecutive full  
13 terms.

14 (c) Council members serve without compensation but are entitled  
15 to receive per diem and travel expenses authorized by law for members  
16 of boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

17 (d) The council shall

18 (1) establish procedures for its operation; and

19 (2) set policy and make programming decisions for the  
20 satellite television project under AS 44.21.320(c).

21 (e) In this section "council" means the Rural Alaska Television  
22 Network Council.

23 \* Sec. 4. AS 44.66.010(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

24 (17) Rural Alaska Television Network Council -- June 30,  
25 1992.

26 \* Sec. 5. EXISTING MEMBERSHIP OF RATNET. The members currently serving  
27 on the Rural Alaska Television Network Council shall continue to serve  
28 until their terms terminate. The current members, other than the represen-  
29 tatives of the University of Alaska and of the Department of Education,

1 shall draw lots at the next council meeting to determine which five members  
2 will serve until June 30, 1990, which five members will serve until  
3 June 30, 1991, and which five members will serve until June 30, 1992. The  
4 terms ending in 1990 and 1991 are not full terms for purposes of AS 44.-  
5 21.500(b), enacted by sec. 3 of this Act.