

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY BROWN AND ELLIS

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 152

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing a geographic information tech-
7 nology program at the University of Alaska Anchorage;
8 and providing for an effective date."

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

10 * Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

11 (1) geographic information systems are useful tools for managing
12 vast quantities of geographic data essential to natural resources develop-
13 ment, environmental assessment, urban and regional planning, engineering
14 design and drafting, land records management, and other activities of the
15 state and local governments;

16 (2) the effective use of geographic information technology has
17 the potential to provide substantial benefits to the state and local gov-
18 ernments through efficiencies from automation, increased capabilities for
19 analysis, and the provision of better data for decision making;

20 (3) the state and local governments have made major financial
21 investments in geographic information systems and data bases, but these
22 efforts have not been coordinated for maximum utility;

23 (4) a need exists to increase public and agency access to digi-
24 tal geographic information, and to increase the capability for data inte-
25 gration and exchange among agencies;

26 (5) a demand exists in state and local agencies and private
27 industry for trained technicians and professionals in the field of geo-
28 graphic information technology;

29 (6) the establishment of a geographic information technology

1 program at the University of Alaska Anchorage will provide educational and
2 local employment opportunities for Alaskans in a rapidly growing, multi-
3 disciplinary field that has many applications in the state and will provide
4 state and local agencies and the public with access to advances in geo-
5 graphic information technology;

6 (7) the establishment of a geographic information technology
7 program at the University of Alaska Anchorage is consistent with the
8 university's missions of conducting and sponsoring research in applied
9 technologies, and offering relevant educational opportunities in growth
10 fields, and will assist the university in its efforts to analyze global
11 environmental problems such as arctic haze and ozone depletion.

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

13 Sec. 14.40.083. ESTABLISHMENT OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION TECH-
14 NOLOGY PROGRAM AT UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE. The University of
15 Alaska shall establish a geographic information technology program at
16 the University of Alaska Anchorage. The geographic information tech-
17 nology program may

18 (1) develop and expand the geographic information system
19 curriculum of the University of Alaska, including the possible estab-
20 lishment of undergraduate and masters programs;

21 (2) develop and sponsor land record and geographic informa-
22 tion system training workshops and continuing education seminars;

23 (3) undertake applied research projects that apply geo-
24 graphic information technology to state issues and problems;

25 (4) provide information on the availability of federal,
26 state, municipal, and other sources of geographic information, includ-
27 ing aerial photography and digital data bases related to surveying and
28 land records, natural resource inventories, and related data;

29 (5) prepare and publish on a regular basis information

1 relating to automated geographic and cartographic information, data,
2 and capabilities;

3 (6) assist state agencies and municipalities in the devel-
4 opment of policies, procedures, and capabilities for public access to
5 automated geographic information;

6 (7) recommend, in consultation with the Telecommunications
7 Information Council and affected state and local agencies and advisory
8 boards, model standards and strategies relating to the implementation,
9 indexing, documentation, mapping, data exchange, and other aspects of
10 land records management and geographic information system development;

11 (8) report annually to the legislature and the Telecommuni-
12 cations Information Council regarding the coordination, consolidation,
13 and improvement of mapping and geographic information system services
14 and programs in the state.

15 * Sec. 3. AS 14.40.083 is repealed.

16 * Sec. 4. Section 3 of this Act takes effect July 1, 1994.

17 * Sec. 5. Except for sec. 3 of this Act, this Act takes effect July 1,
18 1989.