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1 IN THE HOUSE

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HOUSE BILL NO. 251

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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 relating to powers and duties of the Alaska

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Public Broadcasting Commission, and to educational

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broadcasting in rural areas of the state; and

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providing for an effective date."

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

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* Section 1. AS 44.21.264 is amended to read:

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Sec. 44.21.264. PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION. The commission is

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created to encourage and supervise the development of an integrated

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public broadcasting system for the state and for the coordination of

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all public broadcasting stations. The primary purpose of the commis-

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sion is the encouragement and support of noncommercial public and

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educational broadcasting in the state through the provision of operat-

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ing and capital grants in support of the delivery of noncommercial

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programs intended for a general audience by locally controlled non-

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profit broadcast stations or telecommunications entities. The commis-

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sion may support stations and entities that [WHICH] also engage in the

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delivery of instructional, for-credit programs, and the commission may

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provide funds for those purposes, but the primary purpose of commis-

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sion funds is the support of activities that result in the delivery of

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general audience, noncommercial material.

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* Sec. 2. AS 44.21.266 is amended to read:

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Sec. 44.21.266. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION. The commission shall

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(1) apply for federal and private funds for public and

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educational broadcasting purposes and receive all federal, state, or

1 private funds, property or assistance that may be appropriated, gran-
2 ted or otherwise made available to the commission for public and
3 educational broadcasting purposes, and use and disburse funds and
4 property for purposes consistent with the terms of AS 44.21.256 -
5 44.21.290, subject to reasonable limitations imposed by the grantor;

6 (2) provide consultative services in all aspects of public
7 and educational broadcasting to all public or private agencies in the
8 state that [WHICH] request them;

9 (3) serve as a library and clearinghouse for public and
10 educational broadcasting information;

11 (4) through grants to qualified entities, develop an inte-
12 grated public and educational broadcasting network for the state;

13 (5) through grants to qualified entities, develop and
14 distribute public and educational broadcasting programming in the
15 state;

16 (6) prepare and submit to the governor and the legislature,
17 in compliance with the state information systems plan adopted by the
18 Telecommunications Information Council in the Office of the Governor,
19 a long term plan for the development of public and educational broad-
20 casting stations and systems in the state, and annually update the
21 plan; and

22 (7) perform all other functions necessary to ensure the
23 orderly and coordinated development of public and educational broad-
24 casting in the state.

25 * Sec. 3. AS 44.21.320(c) is amended to read:

26 (c) Decisions and policies relating to programming under the
27 satellite television project, including scheduling and allocation
28 policies, may not be made by the department, but may only be made by a
29 network that is representative of participating rural television

1 users, by commercial broadcast users or by other affected participat-
2 ing user groups and entities under procedures provided by statute or,
3 if no statute applies, then by agreement of the affected user networks
4 or groups. Under the satellite television project, at least one-half
5 of the total programming must be educational, and at least one-half of
6 the programming between six p.m. and ten p.m. must be educational.
7 The department shall assist users in preparing agreements that may be
8 required under this subsection.

9 * Sec. 4. This Act takes effect July 1, 1989.