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1 IN THE HOUSE

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 402

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to a center for information tech-
7 nology at the University of Alaska Anchorage."

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

9 * Section 1. FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

10 (1) the state has an enormous investment in information systems
11 including telecommunications, geographic information, information manage-
12 ment, and software development;

13 (2) telecommunication systems are crucial to the state's pros-
14 perity and well-being;

15 (3) in implementing information systems, the state has not
16 ensured that the development is most responsive to the needs and wishes of
17 the people and best able to enhance the state's economy;

18 (4) the telecommunication system in the state has not kept pace
19 with recent technological developments;

20 (5) several University of Alaska departments have been active in
21 exploring information issues of importance to the state;

22 (6) geographic information systems are useful tools for managing
23 vast quantities of geographic data essential to natural resources develop-
24 ment, environmental assessment, urban and regional planning, engineering
25 design and drafting, land records management, and other activities of the
26 state and local governments;

27 (7) the effective use of geographic information technology has
28 the potential to provide substantial benefits to the state and local gov-
29 ernments through efficiencies from automation, increased capabilities for

1 analysis, and the provision of better data for decision making;

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

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

8 (10) a statewide center for information technology that would
9 draw on the expertise and resources of the university system, attract
10 scholars of international reputation, provide leadership in information
11 planning, policy, and management, offer outreach programs, offer a continu-
12 ing program of applied research, and make expert advice available to the
13 university, state government, and private industry should be established.

14 * Sec. 2. PURPOSE. The purpose of the center for information tech-
15 nology is to establish a multidisciplinary program in education, research,
16 and development in information management, applied telecommunications,
17 geographic information, and software development. The center will provide
18 a mechanism for cooperation between university programs and faculty and a
19 variety of users, including students, government agencies, researchers,
20 professionals in related disciplines, and the general public. The center
21 will be able to conduct applied research, provide education and training,
22 conduct conferences and seminars, work closely with private industry to
23 foster cooperative programs leading to economic development in both rural
24 and urban areas of the state, and assist state and local governments in
25 policy development, management, and planning.

26 * Sec. 3. AS 14.40 is amended by adding a new section to read:

27 Sec. 14.40.095. ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTER FOR INFORMATION TECH-
28 NOLOGY AT UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE. (a) The University of
29 Alaska shall establish a center for information technology at the

1 University of Alaska Anchorage with major components at the Fairbanks
2 and Southeast university campuses. The center may charge fees for the
3 services it provides. The president of the University of Alaska shall
4 separately account for all fees collected under this section. The
5 annual estimated balance in the account may be used by the legislature
6 to make appropriations to the university to carry out the purposes of
7 this section.

8 (b) The center may

9 (1) provide education and training in communication tech-
10 nologies and research to students, professionals, and the general
11 public;

12 (2) support research on the applications, effects, and
13 management of communication technologies;

14 (3) maintain a database on telecommunication research in
15 the state;

16 (4) develop and maintain a library including state docu-
17 ments, research reports, and telecommunication applications materials
18 including videotapes, software, lesson plans, and scripts;

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

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

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

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

1 (9) prepare and publish on a regular basis information
2 relating to automated geographic and cartographic information, data,
3 and capabilities;

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

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

12 (c) The university shall submit an annual report to the legisla-
13 ture on the center's activities. The report must include a summary of
14 the center's revenue and expenditures during the preceding year.