

Original sponsor(s): REP. BOUCHER, Brown, Ellis

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 402 (State Affairs)  
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION  
5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to a center for information tech-  
7 nology at the University of Alaska Anchorage and to  
8 enhanced geographic information systems within the  
9 University of Alaska system."

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

11 \* Section 1. FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 (7) the effective use of geographic information technology has

1 the potential to provide substantial benefits to the state and local gov-  
2 ernments through efficiencies from automation, increased capabilities for  
3 analysis, and the provision of better data for decision making;

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

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

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

16 \* Sec. 2. PURPOSE. The purpose of the center for information tech-  
17 nology is to foster and facilitate, through the various schools and col-  
18 leges, multidisciplinary efforts in education and to engage in research in  
19 information management, applied telecommunications, geographic information  
20 systems, and software development, and to develop ways of making electron-  
21 ically stored information more accessible to users. The center will pro-  
22 vide a mechanism for cooperation between university programs and faculty  
23 and a variety of users, including students, government agencies, research-  
24 ers, professionals in related disciplines, and the general public. The  
25 center will be able to conduct applied research, provide support for educa-  
26 tion and training in information technology, conduct conferences and semi-  
27 nars, work closely with private industry to foster cooperative programs  
28 leading to economic development in both rural and urban areas of the state,  
29 and assist state and local governments in policy development, management,

1 and planning.

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

3           Sec. 14.40.095. ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTER FOR INFORMATION TECH-  
4           NOLOGY AT UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE. (a) The University of  
5           Alaska may establish a center for information technology at the  
6           University of Alaska Anchorage with major components at the University  
7           of Alaska Fairbanks and the University of Alaska Southeast. The  
8           center may charge fees for the services it provides. The university  
9           shall account for all fees collected under this section. The annual  
10          estimated balance in the account may be used by the legislature to  
11          make appropriations to the university to carry out the purposes of  
12          this section.

13                 (b) The center may

14                         (1) provide support for education, training, and research  
15                         in information technologies to students, professionals, and the gen-  
16                         eral public;

17                         (2) support research on the applications, effects, and  
18                         management of information technologies and provide research results to  
19                         the general public;

20                         (3) maintain an inventory of telecommunication research in  
21                         the state;

22                         (4) develop and maintain a collection that includes state  
23                         documents, research reports, and other telecommunication applications  
24                         materials including videotapes, software, lesson plans, and scripts;

25                         (5) support the development and expansion of the geographic  
26                         information system curriculum of the University of Alaska, including  
27                         the possible establishment of undergraduate and masters programs;

28                         (6) develop and sponsor land record and geographic informa-  
29                         tion system training workshops and continuing education seminars in

1 cooperation with the appropriate departments of the university;

2 (7) support or undertake research projects that apply geo-  
3 graphic information technology to state issues and problems;

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

8 (9) prepare and publish on a regular basis research find-  
9 ings and periodicals relating to the center's activities;

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

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

18 (c) The university shall include in its annual report to the  
19 legislature a summary of the center's revenue and expenditures during  
20 the preceding two years.

21 \* Sec. 4. The University of Alaska shall submit a report to the legis-  
22 lature before February 15, 1991, concerning the progress made in establish-  
23 ing the center for information technology at the University of Alaska  
24 Anchorage.