

Original sponsor(s): Rules/Governor

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN TRADE  
2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 440 (Foreign Trade)  
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Alaska-Soviet Commission;  
7 and providing for an effective date."

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

9 \* Section 1. AS 44.19 is amended by adding new sections to read:

10 ARTICLE 16. ALASKA-SOVIET COMMISSION.

11 Sec. 44.19.621. ALASKA-SOVIET COMMISSION. There is created in  
12 the Office of the Governor the Alaska-Soviet Commission.

13 Sec. 44.19.623. PURPOSE. The purpose of the commission is to  
14 represent the state in Alaska-Soviet issues and to facilitate and  
15 coordinate the development of economic, cultural, scientific, techni-  
16 cal, and educational contacts between the Soviet Union and the State  
17 of Alaska, the University of Alaska, local governments, and the pri-  
18 vate sector, including nonprofit organizations.

19 Sec. 44.19.625. COMPOSITION. (a) The commission consists of  
20 seven members appointed by the governor. The members of the commis-  
21 sion shall represent a broad range of the Alaska-Soviet activities  
22 existing in the state at the time of the appointment and shall include  
23 at least

- 24 (1) two members from the private sector;  
25 (2) one member from the education community;  
26 (3) one member from the Native community;  
27 (4) one member from local government;  
28 (5) one member from a nonprofit organization; and  
29 (6) one member from the office of international trade in

1 the Office of the Governor.

2 (b) If a house of the legislature has a committee on foreign  
3 trade, the chair of the committee shall be an ex officio member of the  
4 commission. If a house of the legislature does not have a committee  
5 on foreign trade, the presiding officer of that house shall appoint a  
6 member of that house to be an ex officio member of the commission.

7 (c) The governor may appoint up to three additional ex officio  
8 members of the commission. If the governor appoints ex officio mem-  
9 bers under this subsection, one of the ex officio members appointed  
10 under this subsection must be from the governor's office in  
11 Washington, D.C.

12 (d) The commission shall elect one of its members to be the  
13 chair of the commission. The chair shall serve for a term of one  
14 year, but may be reelected to successive terms.

15 Sec. 44.19.627. TERM OF OFFICE. The term of office of each  
16 member is three years. The terms of the members shall be staggered.  
17 A vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the term in the same  
18 manner as the original appointment, except that the Office of the  
19 Governor shall advertise before filling a vacancy in the membership.

20 Sec. 44.19.629. POWERS AND DUTIES. The commission shall

21 (1) serve, as directed by the governor, as the coordinator  
22 and representative of the state for Alaska-Soviet exchanges;

23 (2) serve as a forum for the exchange of information be-  
24 tween the state, the University of Alaska, local governments, and the  
25 private sector, including nonprofit organizations, about current  
26 developments and contacts in Alaska-Soviet relations;

27 (3) host official Soviet delegations visiting the state and  
28 coordinate delegations visiting the state and the Soviet Union;

29 (4) establish procedures to facilitate the state's official

- 1 interaction with the Soviet Union;
- 2 (5) determine and evaluate the potential for an economic  
3 partnership between the Soviet Union and the state;
- 4 (6) coordinate with the director of the office of interna-  
5 tional trade in the Office of the Governor strategies, approaches, and  
6 methods to expand the state's trade with the Soviet Union;
- 7 (7) develop and implement, as directed by the governor,  
8 state policy relating to interaction with the Soviet Union and act as  
9 a liaison with the United States Department of State to solve problems  
10 preventing or complicating interaction with the Soviet Union;
- 11 (8) assist with exchanges and ventures between the state  
12 and the Soviet Union, including economic, cultural, scientific, tech-  
13 nical, and educational exchanges and ventures;
- 14 (9) contact local governments and organizations to identify  
15 the exchanges and ventures with the Soviet Union that are taking place  
16 or being arranged in the state and to determine the special or local  
17 needs for which the commission can provide assistance;
- 18 (10) accept monetary gifts and grants from the federal gov-  
19 ernment, a federal agency, a charitable foundation or professional  
20 association, or another source for implementation of a program or  
21 project necessary or desirable for carrying out the general purposes  
22 of the commission; and
- 23 (11) charge for the commission's services and products,  
24 including publications, telephone and fax communications with the  
25 Soviet Union, and interpretation services.

26 Sec. 44.19.631. MEETINGS AND VOTING. (a) A majority of the  
27 members other than ex officio members under AS 44.19.625(b) consti-  
28 tutes a quorum for conducting business and exercising the powers of  
29 the commission. The commission shall hold at least three meetings

1 each year. The commission shall meet at the call of the chair, at the  
2 request of a majority of the members, or at a regularly scheduled time  
3 as determined by a majority of the members.

4 (b) Ex officio members under AS 44.19.625(b) may not vote on  
5 matters considered by the commission.

6 Sec. 44.19.633. COMPENSATION. Members of the commission serve  
7 without compensation but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses  
8 under AS 39.20.180.

9 Sec. 44.19.635. STAFF. The staff of the commission shall con-  
10 sist of at least three employees. The supervisor of the staff shall  
11 be fluent in the Russian language and receive a salary that is equal  
12 to at least a Range 21, as determined under AS 39.27.011.

13 Sec. 44.19.637. ANNUAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS. Each year  
14 the commission shall submit to the legislature and the governor a  
15 report of its activities during the previous calendar year with rec-  
16 ommendations the commission considers appropriate. The report and  
17 recommendations shall be submitted no later than the 10th day of each  
18 regular legislative session.

19 \* Sec. 2. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS. (a) The governor shall designate  
20 under AS 39.05.055(5) which initial appointees to the Alaska-Soviet Commis-  
21 sion established under AS 44.19.621, as enacted by sec. 1 of this Act,  
22 shall serve the one-, two-, and three-year terms.

23 (b) The governor shall call the first meeting of the Soviet-Alaska  
24 Commission within 60 days after all of the members of the commission have  
25 been appointed.

26 \* Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).