

1 IN THE SENATE

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2

SENATE BILL NO. 115

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act creating an Alaska Native Affairs Commis-  
7 sion."

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 17. ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS COMMISSION.

11 Sec. 44.19.561. CREATION OF COMMISSION. (a) There is created  
12 in the Office of the Governor the Alaska Native Affairs Commission.  
13 The commission consists of the attorney general, the commissioner of  
14 commerce and economic development, the commissioner of community and  
15 regional affairs, the commissioner of education, the commissioner of  
16 fish and game, and the commissioner of health and social services, or  
17 their designees, and nine members appointed by the governor.

18 (b) The members appointed by the governor under (a) of this  
19 section shall be residents of the state. In making the appointments,  
20 the governor shall consider

21 (1) the recommendations made by Alaska Native corporations,  
22 Alaska Native nonprofit associations, Alaska Native fraternal orga-  
23 nizations, and other groups and persons having an interest in Alaska  
24 Native affairs;

25 (2) statewide geographical representation on the commis-  
26 sion.

27 Sec. 44.19.562. MEETINGS. A majority of the members constitutes  
28 a quorum for conducting business and exercising the powers of the  
29 commission. The commission shall meet at the call of the chair, at

1 the request of a majority of the members, or at a regularly scheduled  
2 time as determined by a majority of the members.

3 Sec. 44.19.563. TERM OF OFFICE AND COMPENSATION. (a) Each  
4 appointed member shall serve a term of four years. A vacancy shall be  
5 filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as  
6 original appointments.

7 (b) Members of the commission do not receive compensation for  
8 their services but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses author-  
9 ized by law for commissions under AS 39.20.180.

10 Sec. 44.19.564. POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The commission may

11 (1) study and analyze all facts relating to laws, regula-  
12 tions, and guidelines with respect to Alaska Native affairs, including  
13 issues of health, education, and economic development;

14 (2) act as a clearinghouse and coordinating body for mat-  
15 ters concerning Alaska Natives and the state and for information  
16 relating to the affairs of Alaska Natives;

17 (3) cooperate with public and private agencies in joint  
18 efforts to study and resolve problems of Alaska Natives in the state;

19 (4) disseminate the results of research and data compiled  
20 by the commission by publication and other methods such as public  
21 hearings, conferences, and seminars;

22 (5) recommend legislative and administrative action on  
23 matters relating to Alaska Native affairs;

24 (6) select and retain the services of consultants whose  
25 advice is necessary to assist the commission in obtaining information;

26 (7) establish standing committees among the members to  
27 investigate and make recommendations on issues of concern;

28 (8) create task forces composed of commission members and  
29 other experts;

1           (9) accept monetary gifts or grants from the federal gov-  
2 ernment, private corporations, charitable foundations, professional  
3 associations, or other sources for implementation of programs neces-  
4 sary or desirable for carrying out the general purposes of the commis-  
5 sion;

6           (10) hire an executive director and additional administra-  
7 tive staff as necessary to the commission's function.

8           (b) The commission shall elect one of its appointed members as  
9 chair and may select other commission officers as it considers neces-  
10 sary.

11           (c) By January 15 of each year the commission shall file a  
12 report with the governor and the legislature of its proceedings for  
13 the previous calendar year and shall submit recommendations for  
14 legislative and administrative action.

15       \* Sec. 2. Notwithstanding AS 44.19.563, enacted by sec. 1 of this Act,  
16 the governor shall set the terms of the initial nine members of the Alaska  
17 Native Affairs Commission appointed under AS 44.19.561, enacted by sec. 1  
18 of this Act, so that three members serve for one year, three members serve  
19 for two years, and three members serve for three years.