

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 81 (RESOURCES)  
 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
 SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/25/91  
 Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): SENATOR FAHRENKAMP

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act establishing the Department of Natural Resources as the platting authority in  
 2 certain areas of the state; relating to subdivisions and dedications; and providing for an  
 3 effective date."

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

5 \* Section 1. AS 29.03.030 is amended to read:

6           Sec. 29.03.030. PLATTING AUTHORITY. The [SUBJECT TO AS 40.15.075, THE]  
 7 Department of Natural Resources is the platting authority for the state except within a  
 8 municipality that has the power of land use regulation and that has adopted ordinances  
 9 implementing AS 29.40 [IN THE UNORGANIZED BOROUGH IN THE AREA OUTSIDE  
 10 ALL CITIES].

11 \* Sec. 2. AS 40.15.010 is amended to read:

12           Sec. 40.15.010. APPROVAL, FILING, AND RECORDING OF SUBDIVISIONS. Before  
 13 the lots or tracts of any subdivision or dedication may be sold or offered for sale, the subdivision  
 14 or dedication shall be approved by [SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL TO] the authority having

1 jurisdiction, as prescribed in this chapter and [. THE REGULAR APPROVAL OF THE  
2 AUTHORITY SHALL BE SHOWN ON IT OR ATTACHED TO IT AND THE SUBDIVISION  
3 OR DEDICATION] shall be filed and recorded in the office of the recorder. The recorder may  
4 not accept a subdivision or dedication for filing and recording unless it shows this approval. [IF  
5 NO PLATTING AUTHORITY EXISTS AS PROVIDED IN AS 40.15.070 AND 40.15.075,  
6 LAND MAY BE SOLD WITHOUT APPROVAL.]

7 \* Sec. 3. AS 40.15.070 is amended to read:

8 Sec. 40.15.070. PLATTING AUTHORITY. If land proposed to be subdivided or  
9 dedicated is situated within a municipality that has the power of land use regulation and that  
10 has adopted ordinances implementing AS 29.40 [FIRST OR SECOND CLASS BOROUGH],  
11 the proposed subdivision or dedication shall be submitted to the municipal [BOROUGH]  
12 planning commission for approval. If a municipality that has the power of land use  
13 regulation and that has adopted ordinances implementing AS 29.40 [THE LAND IS  
14 SITUATED WITHIN A CITY IN THE UNORGANIZED BOROUGH OR THE THIRD CLASS  
15 BOROUGH, THE PROPOSED SUBDIVISION OR DEDICATION SHALL BE SUBMITTED  
16 TO THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION FOR APPROVAL. THE BOROUGH PLANNING  
17 COMMISSION IS THE PLATTING AUTHORITY FOR THE FIRST OR SECOND CLASS  
18 BOROUGH, THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION IS THE PLATTING AUTHORITY FOR  
19 THE CITY, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES IS THE PLATTING  
20 AUTHORITY IN THE REMAINING AREAS OF THE STATE AND THIRD CLASS  
21 BOROUGH FOR THE CHANGE OR VACATION OF EXISTING PLATS OR A PORTION OF  
22 SUCH PLATS, AS PROVIDED IN AS 40.15.075. IF THE BOROUGH OR THE CITY] does  
23 not have a planning commission, the [BOROUGH ASSEMBLY OR THE CITY] governing body  
24 [, RESPECTIVELY,] is the platting authority and the proposed subdivision or dedication shall  
25 be submitted to it. A subdivision may not be filed and recorded until it is approved by the  
26 platting authority.

27 \* Sec. 4. AS 40.15.070 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

28 (b) The Department of Natural Resources is the platting authority in the areas of the state  
29 not described in (a) of this section.

30 \* Sec. 5. AS 40.15.200 is amended to read:

31 Sec. 40.15.200. APPLICATION TO STATE AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS. All

1 subdivisions of land made by the state, its agencies, instrumentalities and political subdivisions  
2 are subject to the provisions of AS 40.15.010 - 40.15.290 [THIS CHAPTER] and AS 29.40.070 -  
3 29.40.160, or home rule ordinances or regulations governing subdivisions, and shall comply with  
4 ordinances and other local regulations adopted under AS 40.15.010 - 40.15.290 [THIS  
5 CHAPTER] and AS 29.40.070 - 29.40.160 or former AS 29.33.150 - 29.33.240, or under home  
6 rule authority, in the same manner and to the same extent as subdivisions made by other  
7 landowners.

8 \* Sec. 6. AS 40.15.290 is amended to read:

9 Sec. 40.15.290. DEFINITIONS. In AS 40.15.010 - 40.15.290 [THIS CHAPTER]

10 (1) "street" means an access way in common use including all of the land lying  
11 within a dedicated right-of-way as delineated on a plat showing streets, whether improved  
12 or unimproved [INCLUDES STREETS, AVENUES, BOULEVARDS, ROADS, LANES,  
13 ALLEYS, AND OTHER WAYS];

14 (2) "subdivision"

15 (A) means the division of a tract or parcel of land into two or more lots  
16 or by creation of public access [, SITES, OR OTHER DIVISIONS FOR THE  
17 PURPOSE, WHETHER IMMEDIATE OR FUTURE, OF SALE OR BUILDING  
18 DEVELOPMENT, AND INCLUDES RESUBDIVISION AND, WHEN APPROPRIATE  
19 TO THE CONTEXT, RELATES TO THE PROCESS OF SUBDIVIDING OR TO THE  
20 LAND OR AREAS SUBDIVIDED];

21 (B) does not include cadastral plats, cadastral control plats, open-to-entry  
22 plats, or remote parcel plats created by or on behalf of the state regardless of whether  
23 these plats include easements or other public dedications.

24 \* Sec. 7. AS 40.15 is amended by adding new sections to read:

25 ARTICLE 4. PLATTING IN AREAS OUTSIDE CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES.

26 Sec. 40.15.300. EXAMINATION OF PLATS BEFORE RECORDING. (a) The  
27 commissioner shall exercise the platting authority for the state except within a municipality that  
28 has the power of land use regulation and that has adopted ordinances implementing AS 29.40.

29 (b) The commissioner shall review and approve each plat under AS 40.15.300 -  
30 40.15.400 before the plat is recorded under AS 40.17. The approval by the commissioner shall  
31 be affixed to the plat in the form of the following statement:

1 PLAT APPROVAL

2 This plat is approved by the commissioner of natural resources, or the  
3 commissioner's designee, in accordance with AS 40.15.

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
5 Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

6 (c) The recorder may not accept for filing and recording a plat for which the  
7 commissioner's approval is required under AS 40.15.300 without the approval of the  
8 commissioner endorsed on the plat.

9 (d) Within 45 days after a plat is filed, the commissioner shall approve the plat or return  
10 it to the applicant for modification or correction. Unless the applicant for plat approval consents  
11 to an extension of time, the plat is approved and a certificate of approval shall be issued by the  
12 commissioner if the commissioner fails to act within that period. The commissioner shall state  
13 in writing reasons for disapproval of a plat.

14 Sec. 40.15.310. REQUIREMENTS FOR PLAT APPROVAL. (a) Each plat must show  
15 on its face a certificate of ownership, with the names and addresses of each owner listed. Each  
16 owner of record shall sign the certificate and the signatures shall be acknowledged.

17 (b) The surveyor preparing the plat shall sign and affix the seal of the surveyor.

18 (c) The commissioner shall require that a plat submitted for approval bear the certificate  
19 of approval of any other state agency having subdivision plat approval authority.

20 Sec. 40.15.320. MONUMENTS. (a) In a subdivision with five or fewer lots, the  
21 existence of each monument at a controlling exterior corner of the subdivision shall be  
22 established by the surveyor.

23 (b) In a subdivision of more than five lots, each lot corner shall be monumented.

24 (c) If a monument of record does not lie on the parcel or tract boundary, the plat shall  
25 reflect a boundary survey and tie to a monument of record.

26 Sec. 40.15.330. PLAT STANDARDS. The commissioner shall establish plat standards  
27 by regulation.

28 Sec. 40.15.340. ENGINEERING STANDARDS. The commissioner may not establish  
29 engineering standards for subdivisions.

30 Sec. 40.15.350. CERTIFIED COPY OF PLAT AS EVIDENCE. A copy of a plat  
31 certified by the recorder of the recording district in which it is filed or recorded as a true and

1 complete copy of the original filed or recorded in the recording office for the district is  
2 admissible in evidence in all courts in the state with the same effect as the original.

3 Sec. 40.15.360. APPLICABILITY. The provisions of AS 40.15.300 - 40.15.400 do not  
4 apply to subdivisions prepared

5 (1) for the purpose of transferring a leasehold interest, for the extraction of natural  
6 resources, or solely for the issuance of licenses or permits; or

7 (2) for surveyed sections where the aliquot parts described are 40 acres or larger.

8 Sec. 40.15.370. REGULATIONS. The commissioner may adopt regulations to  
9 implement, clarify, or make specific the provisions of AS 40.15.300 - 40.15.400.

10 Sec. 40.15.380. APPLICABILITY TO GOVERNMENTAL BODIES; RIGHT-OF-WAY  
11 ACQUISITION PLATS. (a) Except as provided in this section, AS 40.15.300 - 40.15.400 apply  
12 to the state, its agencies, instrumentalities, and political subdivisions in the same manner and to  
13 the same extent that they apply to other landowners.

14 (b) A plat for a subdivision created by the acquisition by the state, its agencies,  
15 instrumentalities, or political subdivisions, of a right-of-way, airport parcel, or land for a similar  
16 public purpose in an area outside a municipality that has the power of land use regulation that  
17 has adopted ordinances implementing AS 29.40, is subject only to the approval provisions of this  
18 section and any provision of AS 40.15.300 - 40.15.400 not in conflict with this section.

19 (c) A right-of-way acquisition plat must contain the

20 (1) location and name of the acquisition project;

21 (2) approximate timetable for the acquisition and construction;

22 (3) dimensions and area of the proposed tract, parcel, or parcels to be acquired  
23 and the remainder of the parcel or parcels;

24 (4) name of the record owner or owners of the subject parcels;

25 (5) signature and seal of the surveyor preparing the plat.

26 (d) The commissioner shall review each right-of-way acquisition plat for compliance with  
27 this section. If the plat does not meet the requirements of this section, it shall be returned to the  
28 submitting agency with an explanation of the deficiencies. A plat for which the commissioner's  
29 approval is required under AS 40.15.300 may not be recorded under AS 40.17 without the  
30 commissioner's approval endorsed on the plat.

31 (e) After approval by the commissioner, the original plat shall be filed with the

1 appropriate district recorder within 30 days by the submitting agency.

2 (f) The minimum monumentation requirements for

3 (1) right-of-way acquisition subdivisions are a 5/8" x 24" reinforcement bar with  
4 appropriate identification cap set on the margin of the right-of-way at all points marking the  
5 beginning and end of each curve and on tangents so that the distance between monumented points  
6 does not exceed 1,320 feet; an alternate method may be utilized that consists of placing primary  
7 type monuments at centerline points marking the beginning and end of each curve and on  
8 tangents so that no distance exceeds 1,320 feet; all recovered monumented property corners of  
9 records, the lines of which are intersected by a right-of-way acquisition, shall be monumented  
10 as part of the right-of-way plat, either on the right-of-way line or at the original monument  
11 position;

12 (2) an airport parcel and land for a similar public purpose subdivision not defined  
13 by centerline shall be as provided in AS 40.15.320.

14 (g) If construction of improvements is scheduled to follow the right-of-way acquisition,  
15 the placement of the centerline monuments may be delayed until the improvements have been  
16 completed, in which case a statement designating the schedule for placing the monuments must  
17 be included on the plat.

18 (h) The state, its agencies, instrumentalities, or political subdivisions may acquire or  
19 obtain conveyances, including dedication of lots or tracts of a right-of-way acquisition plat,  
20 before submittal of a right-of-way acquisition plat for approval by the commissioner. A right-of-  
21 way acquisition conveyance may be recorded before approval and recording of the right-of-way  
22 acquisition plat.

23 Sec. 40.15.400. DEFINITIONS. In AS 40.15.300 - 40.15.400,

24 (1) "commissioner" means the commissioner of natural resources;

25 (2) "monument" means a fixed physical object marking a point on the surface of  
26 the earth used to commence or control a survey or to establish a lot corner;

27 (3) "plat" means a map or delineated representation of a tract or parcel of land  
28 showing the subdivision of land into lots, blocks, streets, or other divisions;

29 (4) "street" has the meaning given in AS 40.15.290;

30 (5) "subdivision" has the meaning given in AS 40.15.290(2);

31 (6) "surveyor" means an individual licensed to practice land surveying in the state

1 under AS 08.48.

2 \* Sec. 8. AS 40.15.075 is repealed.

3 \* Sec. 9. AS 40.15.330 and 40.15.370, added in sec. 7 of this Act, take effect immediately under  
4 AS 01.10.070(c).

5 \* Sec. 10. Except as provided in sec. 9 of this Act, this Act takes effect September 1, 1991.