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113



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

Senate

Office of the Secretary

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 10, 2005

TO: Senator Therriault, Chair
State Affairs Committee

FROM: Kirsten Waid *KW*
Secretary of the Senate

RE: Executive Order No. 113

The president has referred Executive Order No. 113 (transferring all functions from the Telecommunications Information Council to the Department of Administration and the Office of the Governor) to your committee.

Article III, Section 23 of the Constitution states:

The governor may make changes in the organization of the executive branch or in the assignment of functions among its units which he considers necessary for efficient administration. Where these changes require the force of law, they shall be set forth in executive orders. The legislature shall have sixty days of a regular session, or a full session if of shorter duration, to disapprove these executive orders. Unless disapproved by resolution concurred in by a majority of the members in joint session, these orders become effective at a date thereafter to be designated by the governor.

Executive Orders are treated differently than bills. If you wish to report any recommendations to the body, please do so with a memo or in accordance with Uniform Rule 49(a)(4) and Article III, Section 23 of the Constitution within the sixty-day limit.

Attachment

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STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

January 10, 2005

The Honorable Ben Stevens
President of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 23, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting an Executive Order transferring all functions currently assigned by statute to the Telecommunications Information Council (TIC) to the Department of Administration and the Office of the Governor.

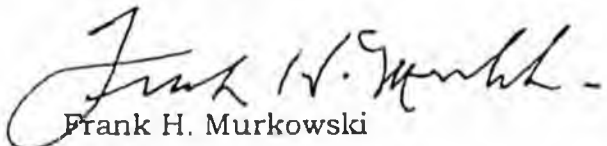
By statute, the TIC is housed in the Office of the Governor. It is presided over by the Governor and is comprised primarily of high-level state officials, including commissioners of all the departments, the president of the University of Alaska, the executive director of the Legislative Affairs Agency and a legislator from each house.

Currently, the TIC is charged with establishing guidelines and preparing short-term and long-term information system plans for the state. It is also charged with adopting regulations for providing information to the public. The TIC has broad authority to establish information policies and engage in any information-related activities it considers necessary.

In reality, the TIC has not met over the last four years and has proven itself to be a failed experiment. State officials with responsibility for the TIC are too busy within their own departments or branches to participate and furthermore, often lack the expertise in the various technical areas to make the necessary informed decisions. Therefore, state government-wide telecommunications activities have largely been undertaken by the Department of Administration, which has the personnel and the statutory authority to carry out this mission.

In order to provide a more efficient administration, it is necessary to eliminate the unwieldy and overly bureaucratic TIC and transfer its functions to the Department of Administration and the Office of the Governor where they are currently being carried out.

Sincerely yours,


Frank H. Murkowski
Governor

Enclosure

COMMITTEE COPY

Telecommunications Information Council Activities Update

Office of the Lt. Governor-January 2002

The Telecommunications Information Council (TIC), created by statute in 1988, is charged with developing policies related to telecommunications and information technology. Membership includes the Governor, commissioners of all departments, representatives of the Alaska Court System and the Legislative Affairs Agency, and one member of the public. Two legislators, one from the House and one from the Senate, serve as non-voting members. In 1995 Governor Knowles designated Lt. Governor Ulmer to chair the TIC, which meets quarterly.

TIC Committees

TIC Policy Committee: This is an executive committee of the TIC that sets the agendas for the TIC and its advisory committees and serves as a driving force behind major policy initiatives. Members are Lt. Governor Ulmer, Annalee McConnell of OMB, Commissioner Duncan of Department of Administration, Deputy Commissioner Smith of Department of Public Safety, Deputy Commissioner Rutherford of Department of Natural Resources and Steve Smith, Chief Technology Officer of the University of Alaska Southeast Director Chase of Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Staff advisers include the director of the Department of Administration's Information Technology Group and the Lt. Governor's special assistant for telecommunications. The Policy Committee meets approximately twice a month.

TIC Technical Advisory Committee: Each department has designed one of their top information technology specialists to serve on the TAC. The committee is asked to advise the TIC on a variety of technical issues, such as standards, security and evaluations of capital projects proposed by state agencies. The TAC, chaired by Ed Christian Department of Law, meets monthly.

TIC Advisory Committee on Emergency Communications: This group, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Del Smith of Public Safety, meets as needed for departments with an interest in emergency communications (DPS, DMVA, DH&SS, DOA) to make recommendations on issues that cross department lines. The current focus of this group is the migration of land mobile radios to a new federally mandated standard.

TIC Advisory Committee on Geographic Information: This appointed group concentrate on geographic information systems and how the state can work in partnership with federal agencies and the private sector. The full range of geographic information issues will be discussed, including the emergence of high-resolution satellite imagery and its potential uses by state agencies and the University of Alaska. This group's strategic plan is available to the public.

TIC Advisory Committee on Electronic Signatures for State Government - This recently appointed group is working on evaluating and coordinating the use of electronic signatures for state government. Many state business processes and corresponding documents today require signature. These procedures now on-line, can be electronically process through the web or email- however, the pages containing the signature must be faxed or mailed. This committee is looking at digital signatures, PINS, and other electronic signatures which would most appropriate for each application. Regulations to implement Alaska's new digital signature were implemented earlier this year. Certification authorities, the businesses that sell digital signature certificates to the public, can now register with the State of Alaska.

TIC Advisory Committee on Security and Privacy- This working group chaired by Commissioner Jim Duncan, is developing policy and procedures for security on all state networks and computer systems. The document coming from this group will define the procedures necessary to maintain the integrity of all information traversing state networks and protect against illegal and unwarranted attacks on the networks and systems. This work will be immediately followed with a companion policy and procedures document on maintaining the privacy of information on state networks and systems.

TIC Initiatives

Creation of a State Telecommunications and Information Technology Plan: In 1996 the TIC developed and adopted a state plan that provided a blueprint for agencies, the public, and telecommunications providers. The contract in underway for an update of that plan is underway and will be completed in spring of 2002.

Boosting the State of Alaska's presence on the Internet: At the direction of TIC, the State of Alaska's offerings of information, services and transactions on the Internet has dramatically increased. Alaskans can now go to the web to read public notices of all kinds, check the ferry and railroad schedules, view the latest election results, check on the status of their Permanent Fund dividend application, apply for state job, purchase a fishing license, renew a car registration, purchase a special license plate, review campaign contribution information, download an application for a business license, and much, much more.

Setting standards for state government: The TIC promotes efficiencies within state government by setting technology standards for state agencies. As a result of TIC actions, all state agencies are now using the same suite of desktop software products, which makes it easier for state employees to communicate with each other. State government now has a statewide email system, allowing technicians in most agencies to spend time on other priorities.

Online training of state employees: A partnership between the Gartner Group, a leading technology consulting firm, the state of Alaska and the University of Alaska, led to creation of a unique online technology training program for state employees and University of Alaska students. State employees can now access hundreds of online training courses from home or work, provides obvious benefits to the state and improves the long-term "employability" of workers.

Special projects and initiatives:

- The potential uses of satellite imagery by state agencies was the focus of a TIC-sponsored conference last December and \$3.5 million in NASA grants were awarded to Alaskan agencies and businesses during fall 2001.
- A telecommunications partnership project that involves seeking proposals from telecommunications providers to take over portions of the state-owned telecommunications network is now underway.
- The TIC, in partnership with the University of Alaska, created a videoconferencing system to service state agencies.
- Cost efficiencies for public television and rural television (ARCS) were achieved when the TIC directed implementation of a digital system.

Other Telecommunications/IT Related Projects and Initiatives

FCC State and Local Advisory Committee on Universal Service: Lt. Governor Ulmer was appointed to serve on this committee, which provides advice to the Federal Communications Commission on state and local communications issues, such as continuation of the education rate for educational institutions, state and local authority over location of transmission towers, etc.

Denali Commission survey on rural telecommunications services: The Denali Commission, co-chaired by Lt. Governor Ulmer approved monies for a survey of the telecommunications services available in rural Alaska communities and what residents they pay for them. Information is now available to everyone concerning the price and availability of services such as telephones, cable television, Internet for each village in rural Alaska.

Jobs for Alaskans in the technology industry: The Alaska Science and Technology Foundation approved a pilot project to identify, recruit, and place 50 new information technology apprentices into a minimum of 20 Alaska companies. This will be done through formation of a consortium composed of businesses, educational institutions and other organizations with an interest in economic development and training.

Telemedicine: The State of Alaska is in partnership with federal agencies, telecommunications providers and health care providers to assess the best uses of telemedicine applications in Alaska, how to break the barriers to effective use of telemedicine in our state, and strategies to finance development costs.

National Recognition for Alaska

The State of Alaska has just been ranked first in the nation for digital democracy by the Center for Digital Government and the Progress and Freedom Foundation. Last year we ranked second among the 50 states for facilitating electronic commerce. The State has also won a coveted "Best of the Web" award from Government Technology Magazine. The National Association of State Chief Administrators selected Workplace Alaska and the Alaska Division of Motor Vehicles Partnership Program for its 1999 Overall Award for Innovation. In addition, the DMV program earned an innovator in technology award from the Smithsonian and *Computerworld* Magazine.