

**LDIR#157**

**PUBLIC WORKS**

# ALASKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

TELEPHONE 6-1434  
BOX 2199  
JUNEAU, ALASKA

November 17, 1960

Chairman, The General State Authority  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Sir:

The Alaska Legislative Council is investigating the feasibility of a general public works authority for Alaska. The type of authority contemplated would be very similar to your General State Authority. Therefore, any information you can provide pertaining to the operation and success of the General State Authority in Pennsylvania would be a great help to us in our research.

Specifically, we would appreciate the following information:

1. The budget (or a similar statement) of the General State Authority.
2. Number of employees.
3. Number and types of projects actually constructed or operated by the General State Authority.
4. Have there been any conflicts between this Authority and state governmental department (such as the department of public works) or agencies?
5. Sec. 4(p), Paragraphs 1 and 2 (Act of the General Assembly No. 34, 31 March 1949) indicate that the various departments have a certain degree of control over the assignment of projects to the Authority. How great is this control?
6. Has the Authority been a success?
7. Does any other state have an authority similar to the Pennsylvania General Authority?
8. What were the accomplishments of the General State

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

1313 EAST SIXTIETH STREET, CHICAGO 37, ILLINOIS

June 16, 1960

Mr. John C. Doyle  
Executive Director  
Alaska Legislative Council  
Box 2199  
Juneau, Alaska

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1960  
ALASKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
JUNEAU, ALASKA

Dear Mr. Doyle:

This is in reply to your letter of June 7. We have not published a revised edition of Public Authorities in the States. However, in 1955, we prepared a memoranda entitled State School Building Authorities. If you feel this would be helpful, we would be glad to send you a copy at your request. We do not have copy of the articles by Marshall E. Dimock which appeared in the October and December, 1949 issues of American Political Science Review.

Sincerely,

*Muriel Hoppes*

Muriel Hoppes  
Legislative Reference Librarian

MH:nw

June 10, 1960

MEMORANDUM TO THE FILES

A Mr. George Anderson came in the office regarding the Council study on the Public Works Authority (SB 144) (especially Port Authorities).

Mr. Anderson, who is head of the Longshoremen at Ketchikan, desires to be notified when the Council will have hearing on the above subject and wishes to receive a copy of the Council report on this subject.

His address is: 622 Water  
Ketchikan, Alaska

*William C. Fast*

WCF



# ALASKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

TELEPHONE 6-1434  
BOX 2199  
JUNEAU, ALASKA

REP. PETER J. KAMARIDES, CHAIRMAN  
SEN. FRANK PERATROVICH, VICE CHAIRMAN

## SENATORS

WILLIAM E. BELTZ, UNALAKLEET  
EBEN HOPSON, BARROW  
RALPH E. MOODY, ANCHORAGE  
JACK E. WEISE, BETHEL

May 13, 1960

JOHN C. DOYLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## REPRESENTATIVES

ROBERT GIERSDORF, FAIRBANKS  
AXEL C. JOHNSON, KWIGUK  
JOHN E. LONGWORTH, PETERSBURG  
WARREN A. TAYLOR, FAIRBANKS

Honorable Richard A. Downing  
Commissioner  
Department of Public Works  
Box 1361  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mr. Downing:

One of the matters referred to the Legislative Council for study and report by House Concurrent Resolution No. 57 was as follows:

**PUBLIC WORKS AUTHORITY.** Study and report on the feasibility and desirability of establishing a single, general public works authority, substantially as proposed by Senate Bill No. 144 in the First Legislature of the State of Alaska.

Pursuant to authority vested in the Council by Sec. 6(3), Ch. 17, SLA 1960, this is to request your cooperation in having the appropriate personnel in your department submit a report with recommendations on this subject to the Council. It will be appreciated if the report could be submitted on time for consideration of the executive committee of the Council when it convenes at Juneau on July 6.

The views of the Department of Public Works and those of other interested parties will probably be among the subjects considered during the public hearing portion of the Council's general meeting in the early fall.

Your cooperation and that of your department will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

John C. Doyle  
Executive Director

JCD:nd

cc: Governor William A. Egan

ALASKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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P38

No. 128

AN ACT

To promote the welfare of the people of the Commonwealth; creating a State Highway and Bridge Authority as a body corporate and politic with power to construct, reconstruct, improve, maintain, equip, furnish, and operate highway and bridge projects, and roadside rests, and to lease the same, and to fix and collect fees, rentals, and charges for the use thereof; authorizing and regulating the issuance of bonds by said Authority, and providing for the payment of such bonds, and the rights of the holders thereof; and to enter into agreements with the Government of the United States or any Federal agency; and authorizing the Department of Highways to grant, assign, convey, or lease to the Authority lands, easements, or rights of way of the Commonwealth and interests therein, and to acquire lands therefor; authorizing said Authority and the Department of Highways to enter into agreements providing for mutual cooperation in furtherance of the construction of any project hereby authorized; granting the right of eminent domain; empowering said Authority to sell and convey projects and property to the Commonwealth; and providing that no debt of the Commonwealth or any of its political subdivisions shall be incurred in the exercise of any of the powers granted by this act; and making an appropriation.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. That this act may be cited as the "State Highway and Bridge Authority Act."

"State Highway and Bridge Authority Act."

Section 2. Definitions.—The following terms, whenever used or referred to in this act, shall have the following meanings, except in those instances where the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(a) The term "Authority" shall mean the body politic and corporate created by this act.

(b) The term "Department" shall mean the Department of Highways as the same exists under the Administrative Code of one thousand nine hundred twenty-nine, or as it may exist by amendment of said code.

(c) The term "project" shall mean any structure, facility or undertaking which the Authority is authorized to construct, reconstruct, improve, maintain, equip, furnish or operate under the provisions of this act.

(d) The term "board" shall mean the governing body of the Authority.

(e) The term "person" shall mean and include natural persons, firms, associations, corporations, business trusts, partnerships and public bodies.

(f) The term "Federal agency" shall mean and include the United States of America, the President of the United States of America and any department of, or corporation, agency or instrumentality heretofore or hereafter created, designated or established by the United States of America.

FILE COPY

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# ALASKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

No. 34

## AN ACT

To promote the welfare of the people of the Commonwealth; creating The General State Authority as a body corporate and politic with power to construct, improve, equip, furnish, and operate projects, and to lease the same, and to fix fees, rentals, and charges for the use thereof; authorizing and regulating the issuance of bonds for said Authority, and providing for the payment of such bonds, and the rights of the holders thereof; and to enter into agreements with the Government of the United States or any Federal agency; and authorizing the Department of Property and Supplies to grant, assign, convey, or lease to the Authority lands of the Commonwealth and interests therein, and to acquire lands therefor; granting the right of eminent domain; empowering The General State Authority to sell and convey projects and property to the Commonwealth; and providing that no debt of the Commonwealth shall be incurred in the exercise of any of the powers granted by this act.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

"The General State Authority Act of 1949."

Section 1. This act may be cited as "The General State Authority Act of one thousand nine hundred forty-nine."

Section 2. Definitions.—The following terms, whenever used or referred to in this act, shall have the following meanings, except in those instances where the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(a) The term "Authority" shall mean the body politic and corporate created by this act.

(b) The term "department" shall mean the Department of Property and Supplies as the same exists under The Administrative Code of one thousand nine hundred twenty-nine, or as it may exist by amendment of said code.

(c) The term "project" shall mean any structure, facility, or undertaking which the Authority is authorized to construct, improve, equip, furnish, maintain, acquire, or operate under the provisions of this act.

(d) The term "board" shall mean the governing body of the Authority.

(e) The term "person" shall mean and include natural persons, firms, associations, corporations, business trusts, partnerships, and public bodies.

(f) The term "Federal agency" shall mean and include the United States of America, the President of the United States of America, and any department of, or corporation, agency, or instrumentality heretofore or hereafter created, designated, or established by the United States of America.

\* "trust" in original.

FILE COPY

JOURNAL  
of the  
SENATE

Second Session  
Thirty Sixth Day  
Senate Chamber

Juneau, Alaska  
February 29, 1960

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Beltz at 10:00 A.M.

Roll call showed all members present.

Prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Rev. A. A. Palmer

Senator Bronson moved and asked unanimous consent that the prayer be spread on the Journal. There being no objection, the prayer is as follows:

"Our Father, we thank Thee for the blessings of another day and for Thy loving care. Help us to faithfully meet the demands made upon us and to accomplish that which needs to be done. Keep us from the errors which are common to men. Guide the affairs of this state to Thy glory and the good of all its people. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Senator Metcalf moved and asked unanimous consent that the Journal for the thirty-fourth day be approved as read and checked by the Committee on Engrossment and Enrollment. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

COMMUNICATIONS

Telegrams of February 28, 1960, to President Beltz and Senator Moody from Thomas E. Carey, Carey Trailer Sales, Anchorage, opposing SENATE BILL NO. 149, were read.

Telegrams of February 27, 1960, to President Beltz and Senator McNealy, from Dick McIntyre, Fairbanks, urging support of COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 87, were read and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Telegrams of February 27, 1960, to President Beltz, from Marc and Dorothy Stella, Neil G. Bergt, Owner of Interior Air Taxi, and R. Liddell, all of Fairbanks, and from Bartan Air Service, Bill Bartan, partner, of Anchorage, urging support of SENATE BILL NO. 87, with the Alaska Aviation Trade Association amendments, were read.

February 29, 1960  
Thirty Sixth Day

144 p. 487 et seq.

JOURNAL  
of the  
SENATE

Second Session  
Forty Sixth Day  
Senate Chamber

Juneau, Alaska  
March 10, 1960

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Beltz at 10:06 A.M.

Roll call showed all members present except Senator Peratrovich.

The President announced Senator Peratrovich was absent because of illness.

Prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Rev. Walter Soboleff.

Senator Metcalf moved and asked unanimous consent that the Journal for the forty fifth day be approved as read and checked by the Engrossment and Enrollment Committee. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter of March 7, 1960, to President Beltz, from Frank Darnell, Executive Secretary, Alaska Education Association, Juneau, enclosing a sample of the newsletter the association mails to the teachers of Alaska each week, was read, and referred to the Health, Welfare and Education Committee.

Telegram of March 9, 1960, to President Beltz, from Andrew and Frances Lahti, Anchorage, stating that as resident taxpayers of the Fairview public utility district since 1943, they wish to be annexed to the City of Anchorage, was read.

Letter of March 7, 1960, to President Beltz, from Ernest Gruening, United States Senate, Washington, D.C., thanking him for a copy of his March 3 letter to Mr. C. S. Landis (Gun Club of Canada) with the enclosures and stating he felt that both he (President Beltz) and Governor Egan had very clearly and temperately straightened Mr. Landis out about his attack on the Eskimo and game management in Alaska, was read.

Letter of March 7, 1960, to President Beltz, from Clifford R. Hartman, Principal, Orah Dee Clark Junior High School, Anchorage, stating his concern over the sale of fire works, and favoring passage of HOUSE BILL NO. 297, was read.

March 10, 1960  
Forty Sixth Day

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JOURNAL  
of the  
SENATE

Second Session  
Forty Fourth Day  
Senate Chamber

Juneau, Alaska  
March 8, 1960

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Beltz at 10:05 A.M.

Roll call showed all members present except Senator Peratrovich.

Senator Moody announced that Senator Peratrovich was ill.

Prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Rev. Walter Soboleff.

Senator Bronson moved and asked unanimous consent that the prayer be spread on the Journal. There being no objection, the prayer is as follows:

"God of mercy and understanding, again we attempt to bow in solemn prayer endeavoring to submit to Thy true and noble Spirit. Yesterday you spared us for a full day's task and we are thankful for the strength you so generously gave. Continue to have a place for us in forming the framework of this new state. We beg of Thou in today's voting upon any and all issues. Bless our home, family and all whom we represent in this Senate. Be our guide and teach us how to wait. O Lord, we pray in the Name of One who served triumphantly. Amen."

Senator Smith asked for and was granted the privilege of the floor to introduce Mr. Robert Jernberg, President of the State Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. Henry Hedberg, Vice-president of the State Federation of Labor, who were present in the gallery. Mr. Jernberg and Mr. Hedberg were given a hearty welcome.

Senator Metcalf asked for and was granted the privilege of the floor to introduce Mrs. Florence Saunders' Fourth Grade from the Fifth Street school, and called the attention of the Senate to the fact that the daughter of Senator Stewart, Miss Elizabeth Stewart, was a member of the class.

Senator Metcalf moved and asked unanimous consent that the Journal for the forty third day be approved as read and checked

March 8, 1960  
Forty Fourth Day

USE ANCHORAGE ADDRESS FOR:

DIVISION OF AVIATION  
GLOVER BLDG., ROOM 202  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

DIVISION OF AIR TERMINALS  
P.O. BOX 6-243  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

P.O. BOX 1361  
JUNEAU, ALASKA

RICHARD A. DOWNING, COMMISSIONER

June 6, 1960

USE JUNEAU ADDRESS FOR:

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

DIVISION OF BUILDINGS

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS

DIVISION OF WATER & HARBORS

DIVISION OF PROPERTY & SUPPLY

DIVISION OF EQUIPMENT OPERATION

SOUTHEASTERN REGION

**RECEIVED**  
JUN 7 1960  
ALASKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
JUN 7 1960

Re: Senate Bill 144

Mr. John C. Doyle  
Executive Director  
Alaska Legislative Council  
P. O. Box 2199  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mr. Doyle:

In response to your letter of May 13, 1960, following are the comments of this Department regarding SB 144, First State Legislature, which sought to establish an Alaska Public Works Authority.

It is believed that the basic intent of this bill was to furnish a legal means for financing various badly needed public works projects without direct appropriations from the general fund. It contains detailed provisions for issuance of revenue bonds and for their handling and control.

The bill is specific (Art. II, Sec. 1, d) that the authority cannot pledge the credit or the taxing power of the state, and that no debt or obligation of the authority may be considered a debt or obligation of the state. On the other hand, Art. II, Sec. 13, permits appropriation of state general funds for use of the authority for initial operation and "unusual expense." The latter provision arouses the thought that the drafters may not have expected the authority to be truly self-sufficient and that it would need financial help from the state from time to time.

The areas of activity placed within the scope of the authority include all the activities now under the Department of Public Works, with the addition of swimming pools and lakes, hydroelectric dams and facilities, nuclear energy facilities, reservoirs, and flood and water control facilities.

The bill failed to pass the Senate on the third reading, March 10, 1960, the vote being: Yeas, 10; Nays, 9; Absent 1.

On March 21, 1960 the House Finance Committee introduced HB 466 through 472. These bills eventually became laws as Ch. 169 through 175, SLA 1960. They provide general obligation bonds of the state to be issued for specific public works projects, but only after approval by the voters of the state at the next general election, which will be held in November 1960.

# Road Commission Is Suggested

Rep. Harold Strandberg, R-Dist. 10, of Anchorage, told fellow Republicans here yesterday that he believes the state prematurely took over the Alaska highway program from the federal government, and its present program won't work.

He was the principal speaker at the weekly luncheon of the Anchorage Republican Club, in the Jade Room.

Strandberg urged a return to a program supervised by a highway commission, which he believes will be more responsive to the needs of Alaskans.

The various areas of the state would be represented on the commission and the highway program would thus be brought closer to the people, he said. "The program is vital to the people and must be close to the people."

STRANDBERG said the money provided Alaska by the federal government to help it in its transition to statehood has largely been used up, much of it going into the highway program.

Strandberg, who is a member of the House Finance Committee, said "there is a question in my mind" that the state in the long run will be able to match all of the money that will be put forward by the federal government for the road program and be able to maintain its roads.

He said the state is now trying to "drop off" some of the roads in its program to reduce expenditures.

THE LEGISLATOR said he had talked with Roscoe Bell, head of the state Division of Lands, and learned that while income from state lands is on the increase, that from federal lands is declining.

And estimates of income from federal land have been too high and those from state land too low, he said. Revenue from federal land "has been dropping off at a fairly alarming rate."

Unless another oil field is found, the oil companies will curtail their activities in the state, and there will be a fur-

ther decrease in land revenue, he said.

THE STATE should be able to meet all its needs during fiscal 1963, largely because of the success of the Tyonek oil lease sales last year, he said.

The lawmaker suggested that some of the \$15 million "windfall" from the December sale be reserved so there will be no need for a tax increase in the near future.

Strandberg said that in the next fiscal year the state will have added expenses because of school growth, expansion of the mental health program and assumption of highway maintenance.

"JUDICIOUS handling of funds available now" will enable the state to meet these added costs, he said.

The lawmaker said the state government is "way overorganized" and has some 100 persons drawing salaries of \$12,000 or more. "The state government has got to be reorganized and you can't do it unless you've got control of the third floor (governor's office)," he said.

Only through reorganization can costs be brought down, he added.