



# LAWS OF ALASKA

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Source

Chapter No.

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## AN ACT

Relating to selection of state land and federal land withdrawal and classification; and providing for an effective date.

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

\* Section 1. PURPOSE AND STATEMENT OF POLICY. (a) Section 17(d)(2) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 directed the Secretary of the Department of the Interior "to withdraw from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining and mineral leasing laws, and from selection under the Alaska Statehood Act . . . up to, but not to exceed, eighty (80) million acres of unreserved public lands in the State of Alaska . . . which the Secretary deems suitable for addition to or creation as units of the National Park, Forest, Wildlife Refuge, and Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems."

(b) Congress is now considering bills calling for at least 114 million acres for inclusion in three of the four systems described in (a) of this section. The legislature finds it essential that Alaska be provided an opportunity to affect the system and nature of public land management in Alaska in order to insure that the rights of the state under the Statehood Act are fully recognized and that the intent of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act that Alaska Natives be provided an economic base in their land be fully implemented.

\* Sec. 2. STEERING COUNCIL FOR ALASKA LANDS. There is created the Steering Council for Alaska lands consisting of 11 members as follows: the state co-chairman of the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska, four members appointed by the governor, three members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house, and three members of the senate appointed by the president of the senate. The steering council is part of the Department of Natural Resources for administrative purposes only. The steering council may select one of its members as chairman.

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\* Sec. 3. DUTIES. (a) The steering council shall develop a unified lobbying and informational effort to insure that the land selection rights of the State of Alaska are fully recognized, that Alaska Natives are provided an economic base in their land, and that Alaska's needs and future requirements are made known to Congress.

(b) The steering council is to provide a forum for Alaskans to develop recommendations to protect Alaska's present and future needs.

(c) The steering council shall review the status of state land selection rights by directing research into the following areas:

(1) the Alaska Statehood Act and relevant judicial decisions;

(2) Bureau of Land Management processing of state land selections;

(3) legal status of land "tentatively approved" for state selection and the effects of the failure of the federal government to act in a timely manner on these selections;

(4) any other factors limiting satisfaction of the state's full land entitlement as intended by the Alaska Statehood Act;

(5) the effect of various proposals under the consideration of the United States Congress pursuant to section 17(d)(2) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act on the state land selection process and on the use of selected land by the State of Alaska.

(d) The steering council may, based upon the results of its review under (c) of this section,

(1) make recommendations to the governor and the Legislative Council for further action, including but not limited to legal action, to assert the rights of the state to select land as provided in the Alaska Statehood Act;

(2) work with the Alaska congressional delegation to develop recommendations to the governor and the Legislative Council for appropriate state legislation relating to congressional decisions under section 17(d)(2) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

\* Sec. 4. COMPENSATION. Members of the steering council receive the same travel pay and per diem as provided by law for boards and commissions.

\* Sec. 5. STAFF. The council may employ those persons necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act, including but not limited to permanent or temporary employees, consultants or other experts.

\* Sec. 6. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.10.070(c).