



# LAWS OF ALASKA

2012

**Source**

HCS CSSB 130(FIN)

**Chapter No.**

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**AN ACT**

Establishing the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council and relating to the preservation, restoration, and revitalization of Alaska Native languages.

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

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1



**AN ACT**

1 Establishing the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council and relating to  
2 the preservation, restoration, and revitalization of Alaska Native languages.

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4 \* **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section  
5 to read:

6 LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds that the preservation of Alaska  
7 Native languages is a critical component in the sustenance of cultural identity. The legislature  
8 further finds that Alaska Native languages are the foundation of cultures and are vital in  
9 maintaining traditional knowledge and understanding.

10 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 44.33 is amended by adding a new section to read:

11 **Article 7A. Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council.**

12 **Sec. 44.33.520. Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory**  
13 **Council.** (a) The Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council is

1 established in the department for the purpose of recommending the establishment or  
2 reorganization of programs to support the preservation, restoration, and revitalization  
3 of Alaska Native languages.

4 (b) The council established under this section shall

5 (1) advise both the governor and legislature on programs, policies, and  
6 projects to provide for the cost-effective preservation, restoration, and revitalization of  
7 Alaska Native languages in the state;

8 (2) meet at least twice a year to carry out the purposes of the council;  
9 members may participate in meetings telephonically; and

10 (3) prepare reports of its findings and recommendations for the  
11 governor's and the legislature's consideration on or before January 1 of each even-  
12 numbered year.

13 (c) The governor shall appoint to the council established in this section five  
14 voting members who are professional language experts and who represent diverse  
15 regions of the state. In addition, one member of the senate appointed by the president  
16 of the senate and one member of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker  
17 of the house of representatives shall serve on the council as nonvoting members. In  
18 appointing the nonvoting members of the council, the president of the senate and the  
19 speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint a member of the bush caucus, if a  
20 bush caucus exists. In this subsection, "bush caucus" means a group of legislators that  
21 represents rural areas of the state.

22 (d) The members appointed by the governor shall serve at the pleasure of the  
23 governor.

24 (e) Members of the council shall serve without compensation but are entitled  
25 to per diem and travel expenses as provided under AS 39.20.180.

26 (f) The department shall provide staff as needed to support the council; the  
27 staff must demonstrate competency in an Alaska Native language.

28 \* **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
29 read:

30 REPORT; APPOINTMENTS. (a) Notwithstanding AS 44.33.520(b)(3), the first  
31 report under AS 44.33.520(b)(3), added by sec. 2 of this Act, is due on or before July 1, 2014.

1           (b) The governor shall make the appointments required by AS 44.33.520(c), added by  
2   sec. 2 of this Act, on or before December 1, 2012.