

HOUSE BILL NO. 233

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPHSON

Introduced: 1/8/16
Referred: Prefiled

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing the Alaska Climate Change Commission; and relating to the**
2 **powers and duties of the Alaska Climate Change Commission."**

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

4 *** Section 1.** AS 44.19 is amended by adding new sections to read:

5 **Sec. 44.19.650. Establishment of commission; composition.** (a) The Alaska
6 Climate Change Commission is established in the Office of the Governor.

7 (b) The commission consists of nine members as follows:

8 (1) the commissioner of fish and game or the commissioner's designee;

9 (2) the commissioner of environmental conservation or the
10 commissioner's designee;

11 (3) the commissioner of natural resources or the commissioner's
12 designee;

13 (4) the director of the division of community and regional affairs or the
14 director's designee;

1 (5) two climate scientists holding PhDs who are affiliated with an
2 academic or nonprofit institution, at least one of whom is a resident of the state,
3 appointed by the governor;

4 (6) three public members appointed by the governor.

5 (c) Members appointed under (b)(5) and (6) of this section

6 (1) shall serve staggered terms of three years;

7 (2) serve at the pleasure of the governor; and

8 (3) may be reappointed.

9 (d) A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

10 A person appointed to a vacancy serves for the unexpired portion of the term.

11 (e) The commission shall, by majority vote of the membership, elect a chair
12 and other officers it considers necessary from among its membership to serve on a
13 yearly basis.

14 (f) The member agencies shall provide staff and administrative support to the
15 commission.

16 **Sec. 44.19.652. Compensation.** Members of the commission serve without
17 compensation but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards
18 and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

19 **Sec. 44.19.654. Meetings.** A majority of the members constitutes a quorum for
20 conducting business and exercising the powers of the commission. The commission
21 shall meet at least quarterly, at the call of the chair, at the request of the majority of the
22 members, or at a regularly scheduled time as determined by a majority of the
23 members. The commission shall keep a record of its proceedings and make these
24 records available for public inspection.

25 **Sec. 44.19.656. Powers and duties of the commission.** (a) The commission
26 shall advise the Office of the Governor on the preparation and implementation of a
27 statewide climate change strategy. The commission shall make recommendations for
28 building the state's knowledge of the actual and foreseeable effects of climate change
29 in the state, developing appropriate measures and policies to prepare communities in
30 the state for the anticipated effects of climate change, and providing guidance
31 regarding the state's participation in regional and national efforts addressing the causes

1 and effects of climate change. To accomplish this purpose, the commission shall

2 (1) assemble scientific research, modeling, and mapping information in
3 ways that will help the public and policymakers understand the actual and projected
4 effects of climate change in the state, including the time frames in which those effects
5 are likely to take place;

6 (2) prioritize climate change research in the state to best meet the
7 needs of the public and policymakers;

8 (3) develop the most effective means of informing, and generating a
9 dialogue with, the public regarding climate change in the state;

10 (4) develop an early assessment and action plan addressing climate
11 change effects on coastal and other vulnerable communities in the state;

12 (5) develop policies and measures to reduce the likelihood or
13 magnitude of damage to infrastructure in the state from the effects of climate change;

14 (6) provide recommendations that address foreseeable changes to the
15 marine environment, the quantity, quality, and location of fish and game in the state,
16 and the productivity of forests and agricultural land in the state related to climate
17 change;

18 (7) evaluate and recommend responses to the risks of new or
19 increasing disease and pests related to climate change in the state;

20 (8) identify federal and state mechanisms for financing climate change
21 activities in the state, including research and adaptation projects;

22 (9) describe the potential benefits of state participation in regional,
23 national, and international climate policy agreements and greenhouse gas registries;

24 (10) identify opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from
25 in-state sources, including the expanded use of alternative fuels, energy conservation,
26 energy efficiency, renewable energy, land use management, and transportation
27 planning, provided that the identified opportunities do not cause appreciable adverse
28 effects on fish and wildlife habitat;

29 (11) support aggressive efforts toward development of an in-state
30 natural gas pipeline to commercialize clean-burning, low-carbon natural gas reserves;

31 (12) identify opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from

1 the operations of state government;

2 (13) identify opportunities for the state to participate in carbon-trading
3 markets, including the offering of carbon sequestration;

4 (14) identify economic opportunities for the state that might emerge as
5 a result of the growing response to the global challenge of climate change; and

6 (15) identify other policies and measures that the commission
7 considers helpful to achieve the objectives of this section.

8 (b) The commission may

9 (1) recommend legislative and administrative action on climate change
10 strategy; and

11 (2) select and retain the services of consultants as necessary.

12 **Sec. 44.19.658. Annual report and recommendations.** The commission shall
13 submit to the governor and the legislature an annual report of its guidance developed
14 under AS 44.19.656 for the previous calendar year that includes any recommendations
15 for legislative and administrative action. The commission shall submit a report
16 provided under this section not later than February 1 of each year. The commission
17 shall deliver the report to the senate secretary and the chief clerk of the house of
18 representatives and notify the legislature that the report is available.

19 **Sec. 44.19.660. Definition.** In AS 44.19.650 - 44.19.660, "commission" means
20 the Alaska Climate Change Commission.

21 * **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
22 read:

23 **ALASKA CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION; STAGGERED TERMS.**
24 Notwithstanding AS 39.05.055, the governor shall appoint the initial public and scientist
25 members of the Alaska Climate Change Commission established under AS 44.19.650 to
26 staggered terms as follows:

27 (1) one public member and one scientist member shall be appointed to serve
28 three years;

29 (2) one public member and one scientist member shall be appointed to serve
30 two years; and

31 (3) one public member shall be appointed to serve one year.

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

3 TRANSITION: WRITTEN INFORMATION FROM CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-
4 CABINET. The governor shall provide all written reports, recommendations, and research
5 developed by the Climate Change Sub-Cabinet established under Administrative Order No.
6 238 to the Alaska Climate Change Commission established under AS 44.19.650 within 30
7 days after the effective date of this Act.