

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5081

To amend the Arctic Research Policy Act of 1984 to improve the Act.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

Ms. MURKOWSKI introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To amend the Arctic Research Policy Act of 1984 to improve the Act.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Arctic Research and
5 Policy Amendments Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. LONG TITLE AMENDMENT.**

7 The Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15
8 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.) is amended in the long title by strik-
9 ing “provide” and all that follows through the period at
10 the end and inserting “provide a comprehensive national
11 policy on national research needs and objectives in the

1 Arctic, for programs necessary to carry out that policy,
2 including Federal programs of advanced materials re-
3 search and technology, and for other purposes.”.

4 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

5 Section 102(a) of the Arctic Research and Policy Act
6 of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4101(a)) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and home-
8 land” after “national”;

9 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking “weather pat-
10 terns and must be understood in order to promote
11 better agricultural management throughout the
12 United States” and inserting “weather and climate
13 patterns and must be better understood to address
14 their impacts, challenges, and opportunities”;

15 (3) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through
16 (17), as paragraphs (7) through (19), respectively;

17 (4) by inserting after paragraph (4) the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(5) a rapidly changing climate reshapes the
20 economic, social, cultural, political, environmental,
21 and security landscape of the region;

22 “(6) sustained, robust, coordinated, and appro-
23 priately funded Arctic research is required to inform
24 United States and international Arctic policy;”; and

1 (5) in paragraph (7), as redesignated by para-
2 graph (3), by inserting “and climate” after “weath-
3 er”.

4 **SEC. 4. ARCTIC RESEARCH COMMISSION.**

5 Section 103 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act
6 of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4102) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (b)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1)—

9 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
10 graph (A), by striking “seven” and insert-
11 ing “eight”;

12 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

13 (I) by striking “are representa-
14 tives of” and inserting “represents”;

15 (II) by striking “who live in
16 areas” and inserting “who lives in an
17 area”; and

18 (III) by striking “and” after the
19 semicolon;

20 (iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
21 the period at the end and inserting “;
22 and”; and

23 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
24 lowing:

1 “(D) one non-voting member appointed by
2 the Governor of Alaska from among individuals
3 familiar with Alaska and the Arctic region.”;
4 and

5 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “chair-
6 person” and inserting “Chair”; and
7 (2) in subsection (d)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking the sec-
9 ond sentence and inserting the following: “A
10 member of the Commission not presently em-
11 ployed for compensation shall be compensated
12 at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the an-
13 nual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of
14 the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of
15 title 5, United States Code, for each day (in-
16 cluding travel time) during which such member
17 is engaged in the performance of the duties of
18 the Commission, not to exceed 90 days of serv-
19 ice each year, or in the case of the Chair, not
20 to exceed 120 days of service each year.”; and

21 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “Chair-
22 man” and inserting “Chair”.

23 **SEC. 5. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.**

24 Section 104 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act
25 of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4103) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) by inserting “DUTIES OF THE COM-
3 MISSION.—” before “The Commission”;

4 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (3)
5 through (10) as paragraphs (5) through (12),
6 respectively;

7 (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
8 following:

9 “(3) hold an annual joint meeting with the
10 Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee to
11 discuss national Arctic research policy;

12 “(4) work with the Interagency Arctic Research
13 Policy Committee to identify research infrastructure
14 priorities and develop a joint research infrastructure
15 plan with a single budget to fund the research infra-
16 structure activities of both the Commission and the
17 Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee;”;
18 and

19 (D) in paragraph (5), as redesignated by
20 subparagraph (B), by inserting “, Tribal,” after
21 “State”;

22 (2) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
23 section (c);

24 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(b) COMMISSION AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN RE-
2 SEARCH.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each year, the Commission
4 may make a cash award to any person in recognition
5 of excellence in Arctic research conducted by such
6 person or outstanding support of Arctic research
7 provided by such person.

8 “(2) AMOUNT.—The amount of a cash award
9 made to a person under paragraph (1) shall be fixed
10 by the Commission and shall not exceed \$10,000.

11 “(3) INELIGIBILITY OF COMMISSION MEM-
12 BERS.—An individual who is or has been a member
13 of the Commission shall be ineligible to receive an
14 award under paragraph (1).”; and

15 (4) in subsection (c), as redesignated by para-
16 graph (2), by inserting “REPORT.—” before “Not
17 later than”.

18 **SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMMISSION.**

19 Section 106 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act
20 of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4105) is amended—

21 (1) by striking “The Commission may” and in-
22 serting the following:

23 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may”;

24 (2) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the
25 following:

1 “(4) enter into agreements with the General
2 Services Administration, or, at the discretion of the
3 Commission, such other Federal agency or private
4 entity that reaches an agreement with the Commis-
5 sion, for the procurement of necessary financial and
6 administrative services, for which payment shall be
7 made in advance or by reimbursement from funds of
8 the Commission in amounts to be agreed upon by
9 the Chair or Executive Director of the Commission
10 and the authorized representative of the General
11 Services Administration or other Federal agency or
12 private entity that will provide the services;”;

13 (3) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at
14 the end and inserting “; and”; and

15 (4) by inserting after paragraph (5) the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(6) expend for representation and reception
18 expenses each fiscal year not more than 1 percent of
19 the amounts made available to the Commission
20 under section 111 for such fiscal year.”; and

21 (5) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(b) APPLICABLE REGULATIONS.—With respect to
23 agreements entered into under subsection (a)(4), if a Fed-
24 eral agency affords the services described in such sub-
25 section, the regulations of that agency for the collection

1 of indebtedness of personnel resulting from erroneous pay-
2 ments required under section 5514(b) of title 5, United
3 States Code, shall apply to the collection of erroneous pay-
4 ments made to or on behalf of a Commission employee
5 and regulations of that agency for the administrative con-
6 trol of funds, as required under sections 1513(d) and 1514
7 of title 31, United States Code, shall apply to appropria-
8 tions of the Commission. The Commission shall not be re-
9 quired to prescribe such regulations.”.

10 **SEC. 7. LEAD AGENCY AND INTERAGENCY ARCTIC RE-**
11 **SEARCH POLICY COMMITTEE.**

12 Section 107(b)(2) of the Arctic Research and Policy
13 Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4106(b)(2)) is amended—

14 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (L) as sub-
15 paragraph (P);

16 (2) in subparagraph (K), by striking “and”
17 after the semicolon; and

18 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (K) the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(L) the Department of Agriculture;

21 “(M) the Marine Mammal Commission;

22 “(N) the Smithsonian Institution;

23 “(O) the Denali Commission; and”.

1 **SEC. 8. CONSULTATION.**

2 Section 108(a) of the Arctic Research and Policy Act
3 of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4107(a)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (9)(B), by striking “and”
5 after the semicolon;

6 (2) by redesignating paragraph (10) as para-
7 graph (12); and

8 (3) by inserting after paragraph (9) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(10) hold an annual joint meeting with the full
11 Commission to discuss national Arctic research pol-
12 icy;

13 “(11) work with the Commission to identify re-
14 search infrastructure priorities and develop a joint
15 research infrastructure plan with a single budget to
16 fund the research infrastructure activities of both
17 the Commission and the Interagency Committee;
18 and”.

19 **SEC. 9. ARCTIC RESEARCH PLAN.**

20 Section 109(a) of the Arctic Research and Policy Act
21 of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4108(a)) is amended by striking “The
22 Plan” and inserting “Notwithstanding section 3003 of the
23 Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 (31
24 U.S.C. 1113 note), the plan”.

1 **SEC. 10. COORDINATION AND REVIEW OF BUDGET RE-**
2 **QUESTS.**

3 Section 110 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act
4 of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4109) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating subsections (a) and (b) as
6 subsections (b) and (c), respectively; and

7 (2) by inserting before subsection (b), as reded-
8 igned by paragraph (1), the following:

9 “(a) BUDGET REQUEST OF INTERAGENCY COM-
10 MITTEE.—The Interagency Committee shall submit budg-
11 et requests specifying and commensurate with the re-
12 sources needed to meet the obligations of the Interagency
13 Committee included in the Arctic Research Plan under
14 section 109.”.

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